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ABSTRACT

A prefatory section discusses the background of Cameroonian pidgin English and presents the pidgin sound and alphabet. Fifteen lessons cover: greetings and leave-taking expressions; present, future, immediate future, unspecified past, simple past, conditional, and compound tenses; subject, possessive, emphatic, object, and relative pronouns; question words; the verbs "to be" and "get"; plural markers; adjectives and comparison; the family; numbers; possessive adjectives and pronouns; uses of the word "de"; emphatic pronouns; adverbs; the imperative; auxiliaries; Cameroonian food vocabulary; color and clothing vocabulary; two folktales; situations in which tense markers are not needed; expressions with "mek"; prepositions; idiomatic expressions with verbs; and conjunctions. A quick pidgin grammar reference and a list of 50 untranslated pidgin proverbs are appended. (MSE)

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# AN INTRODUCTION TO CAMEROONIAN PIDGIN

By David Bellama, Solomon Nkwele
and Joseph Yudom

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Peace Corps Cameroon
August, 1983
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# AN INTRODUCTION TO

# CAMEROONIAN PIDGIN

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# AN INTRODUCTION TO CAMEROONIAN PIDGIN

## STUDENT'S BOOK

## Revised Edition (1983)

## PREFACE

An Introduction to Cameroonian Pidgin is a three part language course consisting of a Student's Book, a Teacher's Manual and a Pidgin/English- English /Pidgin Glossary.

The Teacher's Manual was conceived and written during the Summer 1981 in-country language training program in Cameroon, with the Student's Book following one year later, during the 1982 program. The present edition of the Student's Book is a revised, expanded version of the original, including three additional lessons, a short grammar reference section and a collection of proverbs. It is designed to be used together with the Teacher's Manual and Glossary in a course or tutoring program, but may easily be used separately as a self-study guide and reference. The Pidgin-English/English-Pidgin Glossary, currently nearing completion, will appear in 1984.

As with many Peace Corps language materials, countless people - Trainers, Volunteers and Trainees alike - have contributed to this final product. To all these people, our sincere thanks. They, no doubt, were motivated by the same forces as we were: the strong need for a practical Pidgin course for Peace Corps training and tutoring programs, but also a deep respect, admiration and fascination for the genius of the Pidgin language to which, again, so many people and cultures have contributed in their turn.

David BELLAMA
Solomon NKWELE
Joseph YUDOM

Yaoundé, August, 1983

## INTRODUCTION

Pidgin is believed to have started back in the 15th century with the arrival of the Portuguese on the African coast. By the 17th century many other European and African ethnic groups had begun using it in their contacts and transactions with each other and had contributed to its development. By the 19th century-- the period of its greatest expansion-- Pidgin was being used in West Cameroon, much of Southern Nigeria, Fernando Po, Sierra Leone, numerous other African coastal areas, and some inland areas. As a trade language-- "a language of contact"-- Pidgin has borrowed from different quarters through the centuries. Many of the earlier borrowings, from Dutch, German and Portuguese to name a few, have drifted into disuse, but some still remain. For example, the following words from Portuguese are still very current in Pidgin:

pikin from "pequino", meaning "child"

dash from "dache", meaning "gift" or "tribute"

sabi from "saber", meaning "to know"

palaba from "palaba", meaning "conference", "discussion"

African languages, too, have contributed immensely to the Pidgin vocabulary. The following words are but a few examples ; a complete list would fill a book.

wahala - "trouble"

kwa - "bag"

kwankanda - "bachelor", "useless fellow"

nayo - "slowly"

moyo - "male in-law"

munya - "female in-law"

ashya - "greetings", "sorry"

kongosay - "gossip"

njamanjama - "greens"

nyanga - "ostentation"

ngondele - "young woman", "girl"

potopoto - "mud", "mud mortar"

Although the Pidgin vocabulary, on the whole, is derived from English, the word "derived" must be emphasized. Many words which have an equivalent meaning in both languages have quite different pronunciations.

.../...

wata - "water"

aks - "ask"

arata - "rat"

ayon - "iron"

bondru - "bundle"

gron - "ground"

sidon - "to sit", "to sit down"

Many other Pidgin words, while clearly derived from English, have changed in form and/or taken on new meanings quite different from the original root word.

husay (from "which side") - "where"

chus - "to choose", but also "to excuse"

chop - "to eat"

dray - "dry" but also "skinny"

skin - "body"

foseka (from "for the sake of") - "because"

frobay (from "forby") "to miss", "to lose the way"

fayn (from "find")- "to look for"
luk - (from "look) - "to find" } note the reversal of meanings

kolhat - (from "cool the heart") - "sweetheart"

komot - (from"come out") - "to come from"

buk - (from "book") - "book", but also "letter", or anything written

manhan' (from "man + hand") - "right", "right hand"

wumanhan (from "woman + hand") - "left hand"

memba (from "remember") - "to think of", "to think about", as well as "to remember"

motofut (from "motor + foot") - "tire"

tanap (from "stand up") - "to stand up", but also "to stop"

soso (from the word "so") "continually"

Tones, too, are a very important element. Pidgin has two basic tones, a high one ( ↗ ) and a low one ( ↘ ). As in many African languages, a change in tone will often bring a change in meaning. For example:

bábá means "barber" ; while

bàbá means "father"

pópó means "real", "proper", "correct" ; while

pópó means "pawpaw (an African fruit)

gó means "to go" ; while

gò means the accompanying verb is in the future tense.

Tones need not discourage the learner. There are "tones" in every language. In English you may say the same sentence:

I am late.↘

I am late?↗

and mean entirely separate things.

Pidgin's tones and its own very distinct "accent" or "cadence" combine to give it a unique, African sound quite unlike English. To be understood, you must speak Pidgin in a way people are used to hearing it.

You can say:

"I day go for market"

with a fine American accent and make no sense at all to your listener.

But:

"A↘ de↘ go↗ fo↘ maket↗↘"

will be understood by any Pidgin speaker.

The important thing in learning Pidgin is to listen carefully how things are said and "sing" them back in the same way.

Probably the most essential point to remember about Pidgin is that it is not English. Nor is it "Broken English" or "Bush English", as it if often called. It is its own language, an African grammatical structure, African concepts, an African accent and African tones.

## PIDGIN SOUNDS AND THE ALPHABET USED IN THIS BOOK

Since Pidgin is not really a written language, it has no formal alphabet. The alphabet used in this book was chosen for simplicity and for feasibility on a normal typewriter. It should be noted (and is below) that some letters may have more than one sound.

### VOWELS

| Pidgin letter | Pidgin example | English meaning |
|---|---|---|
| a | 1) like the "a" in | "fat", "man", "back" |
| | man | (man) |
| | bak | (back) |
| | fat | (fat) |
| | 2) like the "a" in | "father", "bar" |
| | na | (now) |
| | ba | (bar) |
| | baba | (father) |
| e | 1) like the "e" in | "bed" |
| | bet | (bed) |
| | get | (to have) |
| | het | (head) |
| | 2) like the "a" in | "make", "late" |
| | et | (eight) |
| | mek | (make) |
| | mistek | (mistake) |
| i | 1) like the "i" in | "sit", "fit" |
| | fit | (to be able to) |
| | stik | (tree, stick) |
| | wit | (with) |
| | 2) like the "ee" in | "keep", "see" |
| | si | (see) |
| | kip | (keep) |
| | bi | (be) |
| o | -always like the "o" in | "rope", "hope" |
| | go | (go) |
| | so | (so) |
| | bo | (friend) |

o -always like the "o" in "bore", "sorry" or the English "aw" in "law"

| | |
|---|---|
| fo | (for) |
| lo | (law) |
| do | (door) |

u 1) like the "oo" in "book", "look"

| | |
|---|---|
| buk | (book) |
| luk | (look) |
| put | (put) |

2) like "oo" in "hoot", "boot"

| | |
|---|---|
| du | (do) |
| yu | (you) |
| tu | (too) |

## COMMON VOWEL COMBINATIONS

| Pidgin letters | Pidgin example | (English meaning) |
|---|---|---|
| au | - like the "ow" in | "cow", "fowl" |
| | kau | (cow) |
| | faul | (fowl) |
| | haus | (house) |
| ay | - like the "i" in | "like", "fine" |
| | layk | (like) |
| | fayn | (fine) |
| | tay | (tie) |
| | day | (die) |
| ia | - like in the words "Leah" or "Tia"; note that the accent is on the i (ee-ya) | |
| | bia-bia | (hair) |
| | ia | (ear) |
| | pia | (avocado pear) |
| ie | - a dialect variation of "ia", above ; again the accent is on the i (ee-ye) | |
| | bie-bie | (hair)-variation |
| | ie | (ear)-variation |
| | pie | (avocado pear)-variation |
| ya,ye | - like the "ia" and "ie" above, but the accent is on the second letter: | |
| | ya or ye. | |
| | fya or fye | (fear) |
| | dya (or) dye | ( "dear" = expensive) |
| | hya (or) hye | (here) |

## CONSONANTS

The following consonants are pronounced just as in English:

| | |
|---|---|
| b | p |
| d | r |
| f | t |
| h | v |

| | |
|---|---|
| k | w |
| m | y |
| n | z |

Special cases:

g - always hard, as in get, gather (never like the "g" of George

j - always like the j in jam

l - always like the l of like (never like the "ll" or wall)

s - always like the "ss" of pass (never like the "s" of rose)

ch - as in church

sh - as hsip

ŋ - as in swing, ring

ny - as in onion

One final reminder on Pidgin orthography. It seems that no two people write Pidgin the same way. Different sources use different systems and even within the same system a word might appear in varied forms. The latter may happen because a word may have more than one pronunciation, according to region.

rod = rot = "road"

gron = graun = "graun"

ha = hau = "how"

huskayn = wichkayn = "what kind"

beni = beri= "bury"

stik = sitik= "stick", "tree"

flop = fulop = "to fill up", "to be full"

weti =wetin= "what"

gud = gut= "good"

With such possible variations, it is important to concentrate on and practice catching sounds and reproducing them, rather than worrying about how to write them.

## LESSON 1

### Dialogue

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Lucas: | Gut monin! | Good morning! |
| David: | Monin. | Good morning! |
| Lucas: | Ha na? | How are you? |
| David: | A de fayn. Ha fo yu? | I'm fine. How about you? |
| Lucas: | Mi tu a de fayn. | I'm fine also. |
| | Ya nem na weti? | What is your name? |
| David: | Ma nem na David. | My name is David. |
| | Ya on nem na weti? | What is your name? |
| Lucas: | Ma nem na Lucas. | My name is Lucas. |
| | Husay yu komot? | Where are you from? |
| David: | A komot fo America. | I am from America. |

### Vocabulary

gut: good

a: I

a de: I am

fayn: fine, good

yu: you

fo: Fo has many meanings. In the expression, "Ha fo yu?" it means "about". In, "A komot fo..." it means "from".

mi tu: I also ; me, too

ya: your

ya nem: your name

na: is

weti (wetin): what (literally: what thing)

ma: my

ma nem: my name

ya on nem: your name (literally: your name. "On" (=own) is used thus to put emphasis on "your")

husay: where (literally: which side)

komot: come from (literally: come out)

Husay yu komot? : Where do you come from?

A komot fo Amerika: I come from America. (Note that here "fo" means "from".)

3. Other Typical Exchanges

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| a) | A: Welkom | Welcome (really means: greetings on your arrival) |
| | B: Taŋ yu (tank yu). | Thank you. |
| | A: Ha yu de? | How are you? |
| | B: A wel. | I am well. I am fine |
| b) | A: Gut aftanun. | Good afternoon. |
| | B: Taŋ yu. | Thank you. |
| | A: Huskayn nyus? | What's the news? |
| | B: No bat nyus. | Nothing bad. (i.e. every thing's fine.) |
| c) | A: Gut ivnin. | Good evening. |
| | B: Ivnin. Ha na? | Good evening. How are you? |
| | A: A wel. Ha fo yu? | I'm well. How are you? |
| | B: A de fayn. | I'm fine. |

4. Notes

a) Greetings according to the time of the day:

| | |
|---|---|
| Gut monin. | Good morning. |
| Monin. | |
| Gut aftanun. | Good afternoon. |
| Aftanun. | |
| Gut ivnin. | Good evening. |
| Ivnin. | |

Any of the above can be answered by the every same phrase repeated back, or by "Taŋ yu" (i.e. you are thanking the person for his/her greeting --a very current practice in Pidgin).

b) Welkom

This Pidgin expression has a broader meaning than the English "Welcome", and is heard much more often in conversation. It is a normal greeting to a person who arrives in your home, in your office, in a place where you are sitting, or any place where you are installed and the other person joins you.

It is not just used to greet people arriving from a trip. The person may just have joined you from across the street. "Welkom" means, naturally enough, that the arriving person is welcome. The response is always "Tank yu".

(Note however that Pidgin speakers do not use "welkom" as a response to "Thank you", as is the practice in English).

## LESSON 2

### 1. Dialogue

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Lucas: | David, a salut! | David, I greet you! |
| David: | Taŋ yu, Lucas. | Thank you, Lucas. |
| | Ha yu de? | How are you? |
| Lucas: | A wel. | I'm well. |
| | Ha wọk? | How is work? |
| David: | I de waka fayn. | It's going well. |
| Lucas: | Weti yu kam du fọ Kamerun? | What have you come to do in Cameroon? |
| David: | A kam tich fọ kọlej. | I've come to teach school. |
| | Husay yu de wọk? | Where do you work? |
| Lucas: | Mi a de wọk fọ pos ọfis. | Myself, I work at the Post Office |
| David: | I fayn. | That's fine. |
| Lucas: | Oke. A de go. | OK, I'm going. |
| David: | Ọlrayt. Waka fayn. | Alright. Go well. |
| Lucas: | Taŋ yu an welkọm fọ Kamerun. | Thank you and welcome to Cameroon. |

### 2. Vocabulary

Salut: To greet

wọk: to work

waka: numerous meanings, including: to walk, to travel, to go, to succeed, to journey.

i: it, he, she.

I de waka: could mean: "It works", "It is working right", "He/she/it is travelling."

I de waka fayn: It's working fine; it's going well.

kam: to come

du: to do

fọ Kamerun: In Cameroon (It could also mean: to Cameroon).

tich: teach

Lesson 2

Kolej: secondary school
olrayt: alright
an: and

3. More typical greetings and variations

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A: | A salut: | I greet you. |
| B: | Taŋ yu. | Thank you. |
| | Ha yu slip? | How did you sleep? |
| A: | A slip fayn. | I slept well. |
| | Ha famili? | How is (your) family? |
| B: | Dem wel. | They are well. |

4. Vocabulary

slip (silip; shlip): to sleep
famili (fambru): family
de, dem: they
pikin: children (child)
ha pikin?: How are (your) children?

5. Typical leave-taking expressions

Waka fayn: go well
Sidoŋ (shidoŋ) fayn: stay well (literally: sit down fine)
Sidoŋ (shidoŋ): to sit, to sit down, to live (in a place), to remain, to stay

6. Exercise: Answer the following questions:

1. Ya nem na weti?
2. Husay yu komot?
3. Ha na?
4. Ha yu de?
5. Ha fo yu?
6. Ha wok?
7. Weti yu kam du fo Kamerun?

Lesson 2

8. Husay yu de wọk?
9. Ha yu slip?
10. Yu de wọk?

## LESSON 3

### 1. Text

| | |
|---|---|
| David na "trainee" fo Piskop. | David is a trainee in the Peace Corps. |
| I de sidoŋ fo Mbalmayo. | He is staying in Mbalmayo. |
| I de go fo klas evri de fo len French an Pidgin. | He goes to class every day to learn French and Pidgin. |
| Fo ivnin taym, I de chop plenti. | In the evening he eats a lot. |
| Afta dat, I de du i homwok. | After that he does his homework. |
| I de slip fo elevin oklok. | He goes to bed at eleven o'clock. |

### 2. Vocabulary

na: You have already seen "na" used to mean "is". Another form of "na" is "bi". "David bi trainee fo Peace Corps".

sidoŋ (shidoŋ): to stay, live, remain, dwell temporarily, to sit

fo: (see Lesson 1, Vocabulary). Another meaning of "fo" is "to".

fo klas: to class; in class

fo skul: to school, in school, at school

evri de: every day

len: to learn

ivnin taym: evening, evening time

chop: to eat

afta chop: after eating

fo elevin oklok: at eleven o'clock

wich taym; (hustaym): what time?

### 3. Answer the following questions on the text

1. David na weti?
2. Husay i de sidoŋ?
3. Husay i de go evri de?
4. Weti i de du fo ivnin taym?
5. Weti i de du afta chop?
6. Wich taym i de slip?

Lesson 3

4. Grammar: Present Tense with "de" and subject pronouns

The subject pronouns in Pidgin are (with variations in parentheses):

| Singular: | | Plural: | |
|---|---|---|---|
| a | I | we | we |
| yu | you | wuna (wina) | you |
| i | he/she/it | dem (de) | they |

The present tense in Pidgin is usually indicated by the presence of the small word "de".

Subject + verb = A normal present tense structure

Examples:

| | |
|---|---|
| Á de ste fọ Bamenda. | I live in Bamenda. |
| Yu de chọp mọnki. | You are eating monkey. |
| I de wọk plenti. | He works a lot. |
| Wi de kam evri mọnin. | We come every morning. |
| Wuna de len fayn. | You are learning well. |
| Dem de sidọŋ fọ Kumba. | They are living in Kumba. |

Note that the "de" form in Pidgin actually translates several English meanings:

Present Progressive (Action in progress)

| | |
|---|---|
| I de chọp | He is eating (right now). |
| I de kam. | She is coming (right now). |

Habitual

| | |
|---|---|
| I de chọp plenti. | He eats a lot (though he is not necessarily eating now). |
| I de wọk evri de. | She works every day (though she is not necessarily working right now). |

The present tense negative is formed by using ".....nọ de....."

Lesson 3

Examples:

| | |
|---|---|
| A no de kam. | I'm not coming. |
| I no de hye Pidgin. | He doesn't understand Pidgin. (literally: He doesn't hear Pidgin). |
| Yu no de go? | Aren't you going? |
| Wi no de drink mimbo. | We don't drink alcohol (wine). |
| Dem no de tok Pidgin. | They don't speak Pidgin. |

5. Grammar: Question Words

Below are some of the question words in Pidgin:

| | |
|---|---|
| Husay? | Where? |
| Weti, (wetin)? | What? |
| Wich taym (hustaym)? | When? |
| Ha (hau)? | How? |
| Hu? Husman? | Who? |
| Way? (Foseka weti?) | Why? |
| Wich kayn (huskayn) | What kind? |
| Wich (hus?) | Which? |

Examples:

| | |
|---|---|
| Husay i komot? | Where is she from? |
| Weti wuna de du? | What are you doing? |
| Wich taym dem de go? | When are they going? |
| Ha yu de? | How are you? |
| Hu de tich Pidgin? | Who teaches Pidgin? |
| Way yu no de slip? | Why aren't you sleeping? |
| Yu layk wich kayn chop? | What kind of food do you like? |
| Wi de go fo wich ples? | Which place are we going? |

6. Vocabulary

wekop: to wake up
drink (drin): to drink
rayt: to write

Lesson 3

bay: to buy

luk: to look at; to find

si: to see

tok: to talk

hye: to hear; to understand

hambok: to bother

kari: to carry

ste: to live, to live at, to remain (used very much like "sidon")

res: to rest

nak: to knock, to hit, to beat

layk: to like

ples: place

maket: market

mimbo: usually refers to alcoholic drinks (beer, wine, palm wine, etc.) but can also simply refer to any drink , hard or soft.

swit mimbo: soft drinks (literally: sweet drink)

haus: house

Answer the following questions orally in Pidgin:

1. Wich taym yu de wekop fo monin taym?
2. Yu layk wich kayn chop?
3. Weti de hambok yu plenti?
4. Weti yu de bay fo maket?
5. Yu de hye Ewondo?
6. Husay wuna de ste?
7. Fo wich taym wuna de enta fo klas?

## LESSON 4

### 1. Grammar I: More forms of the verb "to be" in Pidgin

The English verb "to be" can be expressed in several different ways in Pidgin, according to meaning or context.

You have already seen the word "de" as a form of "to be", when it is used as an auxiliary to a verb.

| | |
|---|---|
| A de go. | I am going. |
| I de chop. | He/She is eating. |

"De" in this context is a tense marker; it indicates that the action is present - that it is going on at the present time. In later lessons, you will see more uses of "de".

In this lesson, two more forms of the verb "to be" are introduced: "na" and "bi". These two words are used to identify people or objects, that is, to say who or what they are.

(It is a....
That is a....
He is....
They aren't.... etc.)

Examples:

| | |
|---|---|
| Na buk dis. | This is a book (literally: It is a book, this) |
| Na nyu shet. | It is a new shirt |
| Peter na big man. | Peter is an important person. |
| Peter bi big man. | Peter is an important person. |
| Na fayn rod dat? | Is that a good road? |
| No, no bi fayn wan. | No, it is not a good one. |
| Na wowo rod. | It is a bad road. |

Though "na" and "bi" mean the same thing, they are not always interchangeable. Note how in certain situations one form is used, while in another, the other form is used.

Lesson 4

| | Affirmative | Negative |
|---|---|---|
| Persons | "na" or "bi" | "no bi" |
| | Peter na big man | |
| | Peter bi big man | Peter no bi big man |
| Objects | "na" only | "no bi" |
| | na fayn haus | no bi fayn haus. |

Summary:

In affirmative statements:

"Na" can be used with persons or objects.

"Bi" is used only with persons.

In negative statements:

"No bi" is always used. ("Na" never appears in the negative.)

Finally, note that you can use "na" and "no bi" without a subject or pronoun preceeding them.

| | |
|---|---|
| Na ol man. | He is an old man. |
| No bi yog man. | He is not a young man. |

In this sense they can mean "He is....", "She is...," "it is...," etc.

With "bi", however, you need a subject or pronoun before.

| | |
|---|---|
| I bi ol man. | He is an old man. |

2. Grammar II: The Plural Marker "Dem"

"Dem" is used as a plural marker when no number precedes the noun. It follows the word it modifies.

Examples:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| a) | singular: | Na buk dis. | This is a book. |
| | plural: | Na buk-dem dis. | These are books. |
| b) | singular: | Na wuman dis. | This is a woman. |
| | plural: | Na wuman-dem dis. | These are women. |
| c) | singular: | Dat man de dans. | That man is dancing. |
| | plural: | Dat man-dem de dans. | Those men are dancing. |

Lesson 4

3. Grammar III

"Get" means "to have", "to possess". Its negative form is "no get". Note that it needs no auxiliary ("de") in the present tense.

Examples:

| | |
|---|---|
| A get moni. | I have money. |
| Yu get moto? | Do you have a car? |
| Dem no get kago. | They don't have any baggage. |
| Wi no get chop. | We have no food. |

"get" is very idiomatic in Pidgin and is found in many expressions.

| | |
|---|---|
| I get bele. | She is pregnant. ("she has a belly") |
| Dem no get sens. | They are stupid. ("they have no sense") |
| I get mot. | He is loud-mouthed. ("he has a mouth") |
| A get moni | I am rich. |
| Yu no get chans. | You are unlucky. (" you have no luck") |
| Bele no get Sonde. | The belly doesn't get a day off (a "Sunday"). |

4. Grammar IV: Comparisons

Simple comparisons are made in Pidgin by using the word "pas" ("more than..." or "past...")

| | |
|---|---|
| Dis rod fayn pas dat wan. | This road is better than that one. |
| Douala big pas Yaoundé. | Douala is bigger than Yaoundé. |
| Ren de fɔl fɔ Kamerun pas Chad. | It rains more in Cameroon than in Chad. |
| Dat mimbo dye pas ɔl. | That beer (wine, etc.) is more expensive than all others. (or) That beer is the most expensive. |

A. Nouns

| | |
|---|---|
| chye: chair | buk: book |
| shet: shirt | bɔtul (bɔtru): bottle |
| trɔsa (trɔsis): trousers, pants. | tebul (tebɔl): table |

Lesson 4

shus: shoes
bie-bie (bia-bia): hair
kwa: bag, sack
moni: money
ngongo: tin can
stik: tree, stick
bif: any kind of animal
fawl: hen, cock
dok fawl: duck
fut: foot, leg
han: hand, arm
man: man
wuman: woman
graun (gron): ground, floor earth, world
maket: market
poket: pocket
rum: room
moto (motua): car, vehicle
bush: bush, forest
bush bif: wild animal
rot (rod): road
kago: goods, merchandise, baggage

B. Adjectives

nyu: new
ol: old
yong: young
big: big
smol: small, little, a little
fat: fat
dray: thin, dry
long: long
shot: short
fayn: good
wowo: bad, ugly
kayn ba kayn: varied, different
trong: hard, difficult, strong
dye: expensive
klin: clean
doti: dirty
tayt: narrow
ret (red): red
grin: green
blak: black
plenti: much, a lot
hot: hot, upset
kol: cold, calm
somkayn: strange

6. Review Text for Lesson 4.

David de mitop witi Masa Fru fo rot:

(David meets up with Mister Fru on the road)

David: Fru! Ha na? — Fru! How are you?

Fru: Fayn bo, ha fo yu? — Fine, my friend. How are you?

Lesson 4

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| David: | Mi tu a de fayn. Ha fọ ya wuman an pikin-dem? | I'm fine, too. How are your wife and children? |
| Fru: | Dem ọl de fayn | They're all well. |
| David: | Husay yu de go so? | Where are you going like that? |
| Fru: | A de go mi fọ Bambui maket. | I'm going to the Bambui market. |
| David: | Way yu de go fọ Bambui? Bamenda nọ get maket? | Why are you going to Bambui? Doesn't Bamenda have a market? |
| Fru: | I get am. Bet maket-dem de kayn ba kayn. | It does have. But markets are different. |
| David: | Bambui maket fayn pas Bamenda maket? | Is the Bambui market better than the Bamenda one? |
| Fru: | No, Bamenda fayn pas ọl. Na big-big maket. I get plenti kago. | No, Bamenda is better than any. It's a huge market. It has lots of merchandise. |
| David: | So way yu de go yu fọ wọwọ maket? | So why are you going to a bad market? |
| Fru: | Nọ bi wọwọ maket. Na bush maket. I get plenti bushbif. | It's not a bad market. It is a bush market. It has a lot of bush meat. |
| David: | Bamenda nọ get bushbif? | Bamenda doen't have bush meat? |
| Fru: | I get am, bet i dye plenti fọ Bamenda. Bushbif nọ dye fọ Bambui. A de go mi fọ bay bushbif. | It does, but it's expensive in Bamenda. Bush meat isn't expensive in Bambui. I'm going to buy bush meat. |
| David: | Na so. Ọlrayt. Waka fayn. | Okay. Have a good trip |

7. Notes on the Text

In expressions such as:

a de go mi...

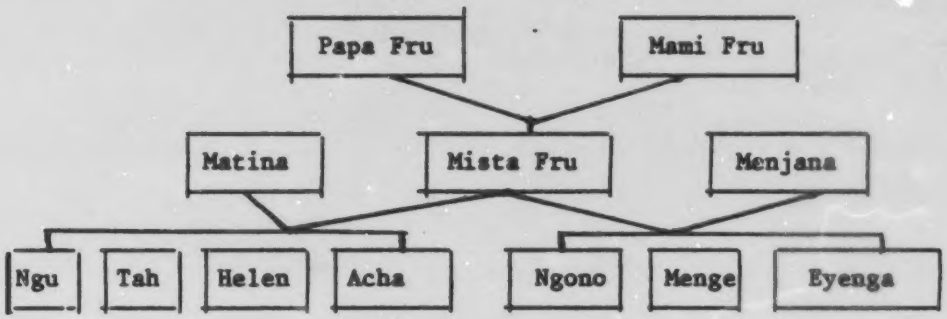
yu de go yu...

The second pronoun (mi, yu) is simply put in for emphasis.

## LESSON 5

1. **Text**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mista Fru na klak fọ pos ọfis fọ Mbalmayo. | Mr. Fru is a clerk at the Mbalmayo post office. |
| I mari tu wuman an i get sevin pikin. | He has two wives and seven children. |
| Di nọmba wan wuman i nem na Matina. | The first wife's name is Matina. |
| Matina bọn fọ pikin: tri man pikin an wan wuman pikin. | Matina has (borne) four children: three boys and one girl. |
| Di nọmba tu wuman i nem na Menjana. | The second wife's name is Menjana. |
| Menjana bọn tri pikin. Ọl i pikin na wuman pikin. | Menjana has (borne) three children. All her children are girls. |
| Mista Fru i papa an i mama dem de fọ Bamenda. | Mr. Fru's father and mother (parents) are in Bamenda. |
| I papa i nem na Papa Fru an i mama i nem na Mami Fru. | His father's name is Papa Fru and his Mother's name is Mami Fru. |
| Dis na Mista Fru i famili. | This is Mr. Fru's family. |



## Lesson 5

### 2. Vocabulary

| | |
|---|---|
| Mista: | Mister; Mr. |
| klak: | clerk |
| mari: | to marry, to be married (to) |
| nomba wan (fes): | First. Adjectival numbers, or positions, are indicated in Pidgin by adding the word "nomba " before the figure. Thus "nomba tu" (sekon): second; "nomba tri": third; "nomba ten": tenth. |
| wuman: | woman, wife |
| bon: | give birth |
| di: | the |
| dis: | this |
| pikin: | child |
| man pikin: | male child, boy |
| wuman pikin: | female child; girl |
| papa an mama: | parents (this can also mean "father and mother") |
| o: | or |

### 3. Questions on the text

1. Husay Mista Fru de wok?
2. Wich kayn wok Mista Fru de du fo pos ofis?
3. Ha meni wuman Mista Fru mari?
4. Dem nem na weti?
5. Hu bi nomba wan wuman?
6. Ha meni pikin di nomba wan wuman bon?
7. Dem nem na weti?
8. Hu bi nomba tu wuman?
9. Ha meni pikin di nomba tu wuman bon?
10. Dem nem na weti?
11. Mista Fru get ha meni man pikin-dem?

Lesson 5

12. I get ha meni wuman pikin-dem?
13. Mista Fru i papa an i mama dem de fọ Mbalmayo? Husay dem de?
14. Mista Fru i famili big ọ i smọl?

4. Vocabulary II: Numbers

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | wan | 6. | siks |
| 2. | tu | 7. | sevin |
| 3. | tri (tiri) | 8. | et (eyt) |
| 4. | fọ | 9. | nayn |
| 5. | fayv (fayf) | 10. | ten (wan tali) |

N.B.: In certain parts of the country (Douala, Nkongsamba and most Bamileke areas) the unit "ten" is referred to as "tali".

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11. | elevin (wan tali wan) | 16. | sikstin (wan tali siks) |
| 12. | twef (wan tali tu) | 17. | sevintin (wan tali sevin) |
| 13. | tetin (wan tali tri) | 18. | etin (wan tali et) |
| 14. | fọtin (wan tali fọ) | 19. | nayntin (wan tali nayn) |
| 15. | fiftin (wan tali fayf) | 20. | twenti (tu tali) |

21. twenti wan (tu tali wan)
22. twenti tu (tu tali tu)
30. teti (tri tali)
100. wan họndret; họn; (ten tali)
165. wan họndret an siksti fayf (sikstin tali fayf)
1000. wan tọsin (wan tausin); wan tọ

5. Grammar I: Possessive adjectives

Possessive adjectives in Pidgin always precede the nouns they qualify. They are:

| Singular | | Plural | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ma | my | wi | our |
| ya | your | wuna | your |
| i | his/her/its | dem | their |

Lesson 5

| | |
|---|---|
| Na ma buk dis. | This is my book. |
| Na ya shet dis. | This is your shirt. |
| I pen de fo tebul. | His pen is on the table. |
| Wi chop de fo pot. | Our food is in the pot. |
| Wuna fren_dem de fo haus. | Your friends are in the house. |
| Na dem pikin-dem dat. | Those are their children. |
| Na John i buk dis. | This is John's book. |
| Na Nancy i tebul dat. | That is Nancy's table. |
| Na Mary an Tom dem papa dat. | That is Mary and Tom's father. |

N.B.: When a person or a noun is the possessor, "i" (singular) or "dem" (plural) must come between the possessor and the noun.

| | |
|---|---|
| Na ma moto dis. | This is my car. |
| But: Na ma kombi i moto dat. | That is my friend's car. |
| Na wi haus dis. | This is our house. |
| But: Na Mary an Tom dem haus dat. | That is Mary and Tom's house. |

6. Grammar II: Possessive Pronouns

Possessive pronouns in Pidgin are formed by simply adding the word "on" (like the English word "own") to the possessive adjectives above.

| Singular | Plural |
|---|---|
| ma on: mine | wi on: ours |
| ya on: yours | wuna on: yours |
| i on: his/hers/its | dem on: theirs |

Examples:

| | |
|---|---|
| No bi ya buk dis. | This isn't your book. |
| Na ma on. | It's mine. |
| Ma nem na Mary. | My name is Mary |
| Weti bi ya on? | What's yours? |
| Wi moto de fo rod. | Our car is on the road. |
| Husay dem on de? | Where is theirs? |

Lesson 5

7. Questions

A number of question words were presented in the Grammar Section of Lesson 3. Another way of asking a question is simply to raise the intonation of the last word of a sentence.

Example:

| | |
|---|---|
| Na ya tebul dis? | Is this your table? |
| Na i pencil dat? | Is that his pencil? |
| Na wuna buk dem-dis? | Are these your books? |

8. Drills

A) Model sentence: Na ma haus.

| | |
|---|---|
| wi | Na wi haus. |
| Joseph | Na Joseph i haus. |
| wuna | ..... |
| Mary | ..... |
| Joseph an Mary | ..... |
| ya | ..... |
| ma | ..... |

B) Model sentence: A de go fo ma kontri.

| | |
|---|---|
| wi | Wi de go fo wi kontri. |
| yu | ..... |
| Lucas | ..... |
| Lucas an Marie | ..... |
| Wuna | ..... |
| Elisabeth | ..... |
| Dem | ..... |
| A | ..... |

9. Vocabulary III:(Supplementary)

broda: brother
sista: sister
man(masa): husband
big papa: (gran papa): grandfather
big mami:(gran mama): grandmother

Lesson 5

papa: father

mama: mother

onkul (mama/papa i broda): uncle

anti (mama/papa i sista): aunt

moyo: male in-law, brother-in-law

munya: female in-law, sister-in-law

mbanyi: co-wife. In a polygamous home the women (wives) are "mbanyi" to each other.

N.B.: Pidgin does not use words like nephew, niece. Nephews, nieces, cousins, are all called "broda" or "sista". Other variations would include:

| | |
|---|---|
| Ma mama i sista i pikin. | My aunt's child (cousin). |
| Ma broda i pikin. | My brother's child (niece, nephew). |

10. Exercise:

Translate the following sentences into Pidgin:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Example: | This is my book. | Na ma buk dis. |
| | These are your brothers. | Na ya broda-dem dis. |

1. This is my shirt.
2. That is his chair.
3. Those are her sisters.
4. This is our class.
5. Those are your books.
6. This is Ronald's money.
7. This is Mary's aunt.
8. That is (name of trainee)'s table
9. This is mine.
10. That is theirs.

11. Assignment for Tomorrow

Prepare a small presentation of your family including the following information:

1. Your name, job, where you are from.
2. Whether your family is large or small.
3. Your parents' names, their jobs, where they are.
4. Your brothers'/sisters' names; their jobs, where they are.

## LESSON 6

1. **Text: John na Volontie**

A) John na volontie fo Pis Kops. I de wok fo Kopretiv fo Mbouda. Mbouda de fo Wes Provins. I no fawe fo Bafoussam.

John is a Peace Corps Volonteer. He works with the cooperatives at Mbouda. Mbouda is in the Western Province. It's not far from Bafoussam.

B) John de wekop evride fo siks oklok. I de wosh i mot, den i wosh i skin. I de wye klos, den i drink ti. Afta dat i de go fo wok. I de wok wit plenti fama fo Wes Provins.

John gets up every day at six o'clock. He brushes his teeth and then takes a bath. He puts on his clothes and then eats breakfast. He goes to work after that. He works with many farmers in the Western Province.

C) Fo twef oklok, wen wok finish, i de go kwik-kwik fo haus foseka se i de hye hongri bat. Wen i chop beleful, i de slip fo son sote tu cklok, den i go fo wok egen.

At twelve when work is done, he hurries home because he is very hungry. When he's eaten to his fill, he lies in the sun until two o'clock then leaves for work again.

D) Wok de finish fo haf fayv fo ivnin. Wen John rich haus, i de muf klos. I de wye spots klos fo ple futbol.

The work day finishes at 5:30 p.m. When John gets home he takes off his clothes. He changes into his sports clothes to play football.

E) Fo ivnin taym John de hye redio o i rayt leta fo i kolhat fo Bamenda. I de slip fo elevin oklok fo nayt. Taym we i de slip, i de memba i kolhat.

In the evening, John listens to to the radio or writes to his sweetheart in Bamenda. He goes to bed at eleven p.m. While in bed, he thinks of his sweetheart.

2. **Vocabulary**

Kopretiv: cooperatives

fawe: far away

skin: body

klos: clothes

ti: tea ("ti" is usually used to include what is taken during breakfast, be it coffee, cocoa, tea, etc.)

fama: farmer

kwik-kwik: quickly, hurriedly, in a hurry

wit (witi): with

wekop: to get up

wosh: to wash

mot: mouth

Lesson 6

sote (sute): until
haf fayv (haf pas fayv): half past five
muf: take off; remove; take away; (also, "go away!")
pipol (pipul): people
wich taym (hustaym, huskaym taym): when
way (foseka weti): why
bikos (foseka se): because
swit (shwit): sweet
spots klos: gym shorts; sportswear, sports attire
kolhat: sweetheart (i.e., the one who makes your heart cool and nice).
memba: to think about; to remember; to recall
evri de: every day
futbol: football

3. Questions on the Text

1. Hu bi John?
2. Husay i de wok?
3. Husay Mbouda de?
4. Mbouda fawe fo Bafoussam? I fawe fo Yaounde?
5. Wich taym John de wekop evri de?
6. Na wetin i de wosh?
7. I de drink kofi fo monin taym?
8. Wen i drink ti, husay i de go?
9. John de wok wit wich kayn pipol?
10. Wich taym wok de finish fo monin?
11. Husay John de go wen wok finish?
12. Foseka weti i de go fo haus kwik-kwik?
13. Wen i beleful, wetin i de du?
14. I de slip sote tri oklok?
15. Weti i de du afta slip?
16. Wich taym wok de finish fo aftanun?
17. Way John de muf klos fo aftanun?
18. Weti John de du fo ivnin taym?
19. Husay John i kolhat de?
20. Wich taym John de slip?
21. Taym we i de slip, i de memba i mama an i papa?

Lesson 6

4. Grammar - Several more usages of the word "de"

A) "De", used as a verb by itself, serves as a "locator"; that is, it tells where persons or things are.

Examples:

| | |
|---|---|
| A de fo klas. | I'm in class. |
| Dem de fo ba. | They are in the bar. |
| Wuna de fo Kumba. | You are in Kumba. |
| San Francisco de fo America. | San Francisco is in America. |
| Husay ya kolhat de? | Where is your sweetheart? |

B) In addition to being a marker for the present tense, "de" also indicates habitual actions, as we have already seen.

Examples of present and habitual tenses:

| | |
|---|---|
| A de sing. | I'm singing. |
| I de chop. | He's eating. |
| Wi de laf. | We are laughing. |
| Yu de drink ti evride. | You drink tea everyday. |
| Dudley de drink Bofot evride. | Dudley drinks Beaufort everyday. |
| Susan de rayt leta evride. | Susan writes letters everyday. |
| Yu de slip fo son evride. | You lie in the sun everyday. |

C) "De" at times is an indicator of a subsequent action.

Wen + Subject + Verb, (finished action without "de"), Subject + "de" + Verb (Subsequent action).

Examples:

| | |
|---|---|
| Wen a drin ti, a de go fo wok. | After drinking tea, I go to work. |
| Wen John slip, i de memba i kolhat. | John dreams of his sweetheart after he goes to sleep. |
| Wen a chop, a de res. | I rest after I eat. |

N.B.: You will have noticed that the verb "to be" can be represented by three forms in Pidgin: "na", "bi", and "de". Knowing when and how to use any of the forms depends a lot on practice. However, it will help if you know that "na" and "bi" can be followed by a noun or an adjective while "de" is usually followed by another verb or a preposition.

Lesson 6

Examples:

| | |
|---|---|
| John na volontie fo Piskops. | John is a Peace Corps Volunteer. (noun) |
| A bi fayn ticha. | I'm a good teacher. (adjective + noun) |
| A de fo haus. | I'm in the house. (preposition) |
| I de wok plenti | He/she works a lot. (verb) |

5. Supplementary Vocabulary

ren: rain
kofi: coffee
ovaltin: ovaltine or chocolate drink
fut: foot, leg
hed (het): head
bie-bie (bia-bia): hair
nek: neck
bele: stomach, belly
finga fo han: fingers
finga fo fut (tos): toes
mbanja (banja): ribs
bak: back
ches: chest
fes (feys): face
ie (ia): ear
nos: nose
tit: teeth, tooth
ton: tongue
han : hand, arm
las: buttocks
bele fulop (bele ful): full stomach, eat to one's fill
de (e.g. A de de): there (I'm there).

## Lesson 6

### 6. Exercise I

Answer the following questions:

1. Husay Philadelphia de?
2. Husay Bafoussam de?
3. Foseka weti wuna de fo Kamerun?
4. Wich tayn wuna de wekop fo monin?
5. Husay ya big mama de?
6. Wetin yu de chop fo monin?
7. Wich tayn wuna de go fo klas?
8. Wuna de wuna hameni fo klas?
9. Husay ya haus de?
10. Yu de ple wich kayn gem fo hye?

### 7. Exercise II

Complete the following sentences in your own words using "de".

Example: Wen a wekop,..... Wen a wekop, a de wosh ma mot.

1. Wen a muf klos,.....
2. Wen a rich fo haus,.....
3. Wen a komot fo wok,.....
4. Wen klas finish,,.....
5. Wen nayt rich,.....
6. Wen wi moni finish,.....
7. Wen ma mama veks,.....
8. Wen yu get wun fo fut,.....
9. Wen ren fol,.....
10. Wen a pas exammeshon.....

### 8. Exercise III

Answer the following questions in Pidgin.

Example: What do you do after your bath? Wen a wosh ma skin, a de wayp ma skin.

1. What do you do when you get up in the morning?
2. What do you do after eating in the evening?
3. How do you feel when class is over for the day?

Lesson 6

4. What do you do when you take off your clothes?
5. What do you do when the weather is nice?

Assignment

For the next class, prepare a presentation on "A Day in the Life of a Trainee". You should describe your actions on a typical day at the training centre. (It may be a weekday or a weekend). Your presentation should follow a chronological order.

## LESSON 7

### 1. Dialogue: Public Holiday

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Lucas: | Tumoro na poblik holide. | Tomorrow is a public holiday. |
| | Skul no go bi. | There will be no classes. |
| David: | As skul no de tumoro, a go wekop fo shap-shap monin. Mi an ma kombi go go fo bush. | Since there's no class tomorrow, I will get up very early in the morning. My friend and I will go into the country. |
| Lucas: | Weti wuna go du fo de? | What will you do there? |
| David: | Wi go go fo maket fo ma kombi i ton. | We'll go to the market at my friend's village. |
| Lucas: | Weti wuna go du afta? | What will you do after that? |
| David: | A go mabi ma kombi i famili. | I will meet my friend's family. |
| Lucas: | Yu go slip fo bush? | Will you spend the night in the country? |
| David: | No-o, a go kam bak fo Mbalmayo fo ivnin. | No, I shall return to Mbalmayo in the evening. |
| Lucas: | A beg, yu go brin me som fayn tin fo chop. | Please, will you bring something nice to eat for me? |
| David: | Olrayt. If bushbif de fo maket, a go brin yu fayn wan. Ha fo yu? Weti yu go du tumoro? | All rightn if there's game in the market, I'll bring a nice piece for you. What about you? What will you do tomorrow? |
| Lucas: | A go slip mi di hol de. | I shall sleep the whole day. |
| David: | I fayn. A wan go fiks kago. Wi go si smol taym. | That's fine. I want to go arrange my luggage. See you soon. |

### 2. Vocabulary

tumoro: tomorrow

poblik holide: public holiday

skul: school, classes

as: since, as

shap-shap monin: very early in the morning (see the section on adverbs)

kombi (bo; fren): friend

bush: This word has several meanings depending on the context. It can stand for: farm; forest, country, bush. It can also serve as an adjective.

Lesson 7

bush (shwain,-kau,-fawl, etc.): wild (pig, cow, hen/cock, etc.)
sabi: to meet (it usually means: to know)
somtin: something
hol: whole; hole
fiks: arrange; pack; repair
smol tayn: soon
bush bif: game
du: to do
ton: home; village; town
kam bak: to return
A beg: please (I beg)
fayn: nice, fine good
wan: want
kago: luggage, load
I wan: alone, by oneself

3. Questions on the Text

1. Tumoro na weti?
2. Skul go bi tumoro?
3. Wich tayn David go wekop?
4. Way i go wekop fo shap shap monin'
5. I go go fo bush i wan? I na hu go go fo bush.
6. Weti dem go du fo bush.
7. Dem go go maket fo husay.
8. Afta maket, dem go kam bak daret i ɔ Mbalmayo? Weti dem go du?
9. David go slip fo bush?
10. Wich tayn David go kam bak fo Mbalmayo?
11. Weti i go brin fo Lucas?
12. Weti Lucas go du tumoro?
13. Way i go slip di hol de?
14. Weti David wan go du nau?
15. Wich tayn dem go si egen?

Lesson 7

4. Grammar: The Future Tense

The future tense in Pidgin is formed by adding the auxiliary "go" before the verb.

| Present | Future |
|---|---|
| a) Subject + de + verb | Subject + go + verb |
| b) Subject + bi + noun | Subject + go + bi + noun |

Examples

| Present | Future |
|---|---|
| a) A de rayt leta. | A go rayt leta. |
| I de chop koko. | I go chop koko. |
| Wuna de len Pidgin. | Wuna go len Pidgin. |
| Dem de go fo maket. | Dem go go fo maket. |
| b) A bi trainee. | A go bi trainee. |
| Peter bi drayva. | Peter go bi drayva. |

N.B.: In the sentence: "Dem go go fo maket"; the second "go" is the verb "to go" while the first "go" is the future marker. The second "go" is pronounced with a higher pitch than the first.

The future tense with "go + verb" in Pidgin corresponds to "shall/will + verb" in English. It is a general future tense.

There is also a kind of immediate future in Pidgin, which is used when you are literally "on your way" to do something right away. This is formed by using the combination: Subject + de go + verb.

Note the following comparison of forms:

| Present | |
|---|---|
| A de ple. | I am playing. |
| Wuna de fayt. | You are fighting. |
| I de kuk. | She's cooking. |

| Immediate Future | |
|---|---|
| A de go ple. | I'm going to play (right away).<br>I'm on my way to play (right away). |
| Wuna de go fayt. | You're going to fight (right away).<br>You're on your way to fight (right away). |
| I de go kuk. | She's going to cook (right away).<br>She's on her way to cook (right away). |

Lesson 7

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A go ple. | I will play. | (could be fairly soon in |
| Wuna go fayt. | You will fight. | the future; could be |
| I go kuk. | She will cook. | fairly distant). |

Negative (Future; Immediate Future)

The negative of the Future Tense (....go...) and the Immediate Future (...de go....) is formed by adding "no" before "go" and "de go" respectively.

Examples

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| a) 1. | A go ple. | A no go ple. |
| 2. | Wuna go fayt. | Wuna no go fayt. |
| 3. | I go kuk. | I no go kuk. |
| 4. | Dem go kam. | Dem no go kam. |
| 5. | Yu go chop. | Yu no go chop. |
| b) 1. | A de go ple. | A no de go ple. |
| 2. | Wuna de go fayt. | Wuna no de go fayt. |
| 3. | I de go kuk. | I no de go kuk. |
| 4. | Dem de go swim. | Dem no de go swim. |

5. Grammar: Emphatic Pronouns

Emphatic Pronouns, as the name suggests, are pronouns that are used to emphasize nouns or other pronouns. The following are the emphatic pronouns in Pidgin:

| Singular | | Plural | |
|---|---|---|---|
| mi (misef) | myself | wi (wisef) | ourselves |
| yu (yusef) | yourself | wuna (wunasef) | yourselves |
| i (isef) | himself/ herself/ itself. | dem (demsef) | themselves |

Examples

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| a) | A go slip mi di hol de. | (myself) I will sleep the whole day. |
| b) | Dem de go dem smol taym. | They (themselves) will be leaving soon. |
| c) | John de ple i futbol. | (He) John is playing football. |

Lesson 7

6. Grammar: Adverbs

Often, adverbs are formed by doubling words in Pidgin, that is a word is repeated twice. Examples:

| | |
|---|---|
| ol ol | completely |
| nau nau (na na) | immediately |
| kwik kwik | quickly |
| wel wel | really well |
| smol smol | gradually |
| sofli sofli | slowly, quietly |
| fayn fayn | really fine |
| tron tron | steadily, heavily, unceasingly |
| shap shap | very early |

Examples:

| | |
|---|---|
| Masa Tom de waka kwik kwik. | Mr. Tom is walking quickly. |
| Ren de fal tron tron | It's raining heavily. |
| Wet mi, a de kam nau nau. | Wait for me, I'm coming immediately. |

7. Supplementary Vocabulary

| | |
|---|---|
| afta tumoro | the day after tomorrow |
| afta yestede | the day before yesterday |
| neks wik | next week |
| neks mun | next month |
| neks yie | next year |
| koko | cocoyam |
| Monde | Monday |
| Tiusde | Tuesday |
| Wenesde | Wednesday |
| Tosde | Thursday |
| Frayde | Friday |
| Satude | Saturday |
| Sonde | Sunday (In certain areas especially in the Northwest Province, there is a "Kontri Sonde"). |

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8. Exercise I

Change the following sentences into the future. You can use one of the following time markers: afta tumoro, neks vik, neks mun, etc.

For example: A de res. A go res. (or) A go res tumoro.

1. David de bay bush bif fo Lucas.
2. John de memba i kolhat.
3. Lucas an David dem de go fo bush.
4. Dem de sidon fo chye.
5. Wi de drink mimbo fo ba.
6. Wi de kam bak fo Foumban.
7. I de veks plenti.
8. I no de slip fo bush.
9. A no de wok tude.
10. Yu de rayt leta.

9. Exercise II

Change the following sentences into negative statements:

For example: A go drink ti. A no go drink ti.

1. A go go fo maket.
2. Shirley go chop bushbif.
3. Yu go drink kofi?
4. Dem go slip fo twef oklok.
5. Yu go stil bi "trainee" neks mun?
6. Wi go chop rays afta tumoro.
7. Wuna go go fo klas tumoro.
8. Jim go go fo Bertoua.
9. Karim go brin redio.
10. Olu go rayt buk.

10. Exercise III

Answer the following questions:

1. Weti yu go du afta tumoro?
2. Weti wuna go chop fo ivnin?
3. Wich taym wuna go drink mimbo?
4. Weti yu go bi wen yu go bak fo Amerika?

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5. Husay yu go bi wen "training" finish?
6. Weti yu go du fo ya "post"?
7. Hu go bi president fo Amerika neks taym?
8. Yu go stil bi volontie afta tu yie?
9. Wich kayn klos yu go we fo Sonde?
10. Wich kayn wuman/man yu go mari?

11. Assignment

For the next class prepare a short presentation on any of the following topics:

a) How you will spend the next week-end.
b) What you will do during the next holiday.
c) What you hope to do at your post.
d) What you will do when you return to the States.
e) What you will do when you are old and rich.

## LESSON 8

### 1. Dialogue : Night Out

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Lucas : | Kwa-kwa fo hye ! | Is there anyone in ? |
| David : | Na hu de de ? | Who's there ? |
| Lucas : | Na mi bo, na Fru. | It's me, friend ; it's Fru. |
| David : | Ah, ma kombi, enta fo haus na. Ha di ivnin de waka ? | Ah my friend, come right in. How's the evening going ? |
| Lucas : | I de waka fayn. An as mun de shayn plenti, a tin se layf de fo autsayd plenti. Mek we go drink smol mimbo fo ton.. | It's fine. And as there's bright moonlight, I think there's a lot of "action" outside. Let's go have a drink in town. |
| David : | Ah ha! A layk am. Onli se smol tin de hambok mi As mun go finish smol taym, a de jam moni. | Ah ha ! I like that But there's one small thing bothering me. Since the month is nearly over , I'm broke. |
| Lucas : | No wori. Na mi a go pe. | Don't worry. I will pay. |
| David : | Na fayn tin dat. Tank yu bo. Wet mek a tek ma sweta. | That's nice of you. Thanks friend. Hold on while I get my pullover. |
| Lucas : | Yu fit lef sweta. Kol no de fo autsayd. | You can leave it. It's not cold outside. |
| David : | Olrayt. Wi fit go. Fo which ba yu wan go ? | All right. We can go. Which bar do you want to go to ? |
| Lucas : | A tin se wi fit go fo MONGO BETI. | I think we can go to MONGO BETI. |
| David : | Yes, Mongo Beti get fayn myusik an kol mimbo. Mek wi begin go. | Yes, there's good music and cold drinks at Mongo Beti. Let's get moving. |

### 2. Vocabulary

Kwa-kwa : This is traditional. It' a reproduction of the sound made when one knocks at a door. It simply means : "knock knock" or " Is there anyone in ?".

a tin se : I think ... ; I guess ..

Layf : Generally, it means "life" though there are a few variations in meaning. E.g. : "Layf trog" : Life's difficult. "A de chop layf" : I'm enjoying myself. "Layf de" : There's plenty of "action" ; it's lively.

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autsayd (opsayd) : outside ; out

smol : small, little

onli se : only that ; except that

hambok : to worry, to disturb, to trouble

jam : a) to lack (A jam moni). (A jam moto : There's no car)
b) to have an accident (Moto jam mi : I was hit by a vehicle)

wori : to worry, to bother, to trouble

fit : to be able to ; can

kol : cold

mek.. : Let ..(imperative, see grammar below)

3. Questions on the Dialogue

1. Na hu de fo David i do ?
2. Weti i de tok ?
3. Way i de tok so ?
4. Ha di-ivnin de waka fo Lucas ?
5. Ha di mun de ?
6. Ha yu sabi se ol pipol no de slip fo ton ?
7. Weti de hambok David ?
8. Weti Lucas wan du ?
9. David i tu layk fo go ?
10. Way i jam moni ?
11. Way Lucas tok se "No wori" ?
12. Weti David wan we fo go fo ba ?
13. Way i fit lef sweta fo haus ?
14. Way di kombi-dem wan go fo Mongo Beti ?

4. Grammar I : The Imperative

Pidgin has two imperative or "command" forms :

a) The first is used to tell (order, command, ask...) someone to do something. As in English,no special form is needed, you just say the verb.

| | |
|---|---|
| Tanap ! | Stand up ! |
| Go fo do ! | Go to the door ! |
| Ton skin ! | Turn around ! |
| Kam bak fo chye ! | Come back to your chair ! |

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| | |
|---|---|
| Sidọŋ ! | Sit down ! |
| Chọp ! | Eat ! |
| Muf ! | Beat it ! (Go away!) |

Negative

For the negative, add "nọ" before the verb.

| | |
|---|---|
| Nọ sidọŋ ! | Don't sit down ! |
| Nọ chọp ! | Don't eat ! |
| Nọ hambọk mi ! | Don't bother me ! |

"Wuna" form

Add "wuna" if you want to let your listeners know you are addressing more than one person.

| | |
|---|---|
| Wuna tanap ! | Stand up ! ("you" - plural) |
| Wuna chọp ! | Eat ! (you - plural) |
| Wuna tek tayn ! | Be careful ! ("you" - plural) |
| Wuna nọ hambọk mi ! | Don't bother me! ("you" - plural) |
| Wuna nọ kọmọt | Don't leave ("you" - plural) |

N.B. : The above forms are the simplest way to tell someone to do something and are very commonly used in Pidgin.

b) The form "mek" + pronoun + verb corresponds to the English "Let...." (Let's go !) or "...should..." (We should go!). It is a little more polite, having more the character of a suggestion rather than a command. Note that it can be used with all pronouns.

| | |
|---|---|
| Mek a go fọ maket. | Let me go to the market.<br>I should go to the market. |
| Mek a salut ma kombi | Let me greet my friend.<br>I should greet my friend. |
| Mek wi bigin go. | Let s get going<br>We should get going. |
| Mek wi go fọ haus. | Let s go home.<br>We should go home. |
| Mek yu chọp | Eat !<br>You should eat. |
| Mek yu res smọl | Rest a little.<br>You should rest a little. |
| Mek wuna kam bak fọ fayv oklọk. | Come back at five o'clock. (Plural)<br>You should come back at five o'clock. |

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| | |
|---|---|
| Mek wuna enta fo klas | Go into the classroom (plural)<br>You should go into the classroom (plural) |
| Mek i wet smol | Let him wait a while.<br>He should wait a while. |
| Mek i rayt i nem | Let her write her name<br>She should write her name |
| Mek dem go kwik-kwik | Let them go quickly<br>They should go quickly |
| Mek dem len French | Let them learn French<br>They should learn French. |

Negative

For the negative, put "no" between the pronoun and the verb.

| | |
|---|---|
| Mek a no foget ... | Let me not forget ... |
| Mek wuna no fayt. | Don't fight.<br>You (plural) should not fight. |
| Mek i no let. | Let him not be late.<br>He should not be late. |
| Mek yu no hambok mi | Don't bother me.<br>You shouldn't bother me. |

N.B. : Note that in some Pidgin dialects and in fast spoken Pidgin in general, the "k" of mek is often swallowed. Hence you will often hear :

| | |
|---|---|
| Me a begin go | Let me get going |
| Me wuna no fayt | Don't fight |
| Me i no let | Let him not be late. |

5. Grammar II : Auxiliaries "Sabi", "Wan", and "Fit".

a) Sabi - As an auxiliary, "sabi" means "to know how to" (often expressed by "can" in English). It indicates that you have the skill or knowledge to do a certain thing.

Note that neither "sabi" nor the other auxiliaries listed below require the marker "de" in the present. They can be used without it.

Examples :

| | |
|---|---|
| A sabi tok French | I know how to speak French<br>(I can speak French) |
| I sabi drayv moto | He knows how to drive<br>(He can drive) |

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| | |
|---|---|
| Wi sabi dans Makossa | We know how to dance Makossa<br>(We can dance Makossa) |
| Yu no sabi ple gita | You don't know how to play the guitar<br>(You can't play the guitar) |

b) Wan - The auxiliary "wan" means " want" or "would like to".

Examples

| | |
|---|---|
| A wan go fo ton. | I want to go to town |
| I wan bay klos | She wants to buy a dress |
| Dan wan bi president fo Amerika | Dan wants (would like) to be the President of the United States |
| Wi no wan go fo ba | We don't want to go to the bar. |

c) Fit - The auxiliary "fit" means "can" or "to be able to". Note that where "sabi" indicates that you have the skill or knowledge to do something, "fit" indicates whether you are physically (or legally) able to do something.

Examples

| | |
|---|---|
| A fit kari dis tebul. | I can carry this table. |
| Yu fit mari tu wuman. | You can marry two women. |
| A fit bit yu. | I can beat you up. |
| Wi no fit chop ten elefan. | We can't eat ten elephant. |

Note the difference between "sabi" and "fit" :

| | |
|---|---|
| A sabi drayv, bet a no fit drayv fo dis wowo rod. | I know how to drive, but I can't drive on this bad road. |

6. Supplementary Vocabulary

tanap : stand up

ton skin : turn round

tok : to speak, to talk

rum : room

drayv : to drive, to send away

kuk : to cook, a cook

kari : to carry

palava : trouble, problem.

dans : to dance ; a dance

snek : snake

monki (sombo) : monkey

plenti : a lot, many

LESSON 8

7. Exercise I :

Complete the following sentences using "mek" :

Example : Tude na maket de,..... Tude na maket de, mek a go fo maket.

1. A hongri bat, .....
2. A taya plenti, .....
3. Dis rum doti plenti .....
4. Tude na Sonde, .....
5. Tayn nau na sevin oklok, ....
6. Wi get plenti moni,.....
7. Tude na holide, .....
8. Ma trosis doti, .....
9. Joe de hongri mimbo, .....
10. Kol de fo autsayd plenti, ...

8. Exercise II

Answer the following questions :

1. Hu wan bi president fo Amerika neks tayn ?
2. Darekto fo Pis Kops fit ple gita ?
3. Ya papa sabi tok French ?
4. Ya papa wan kam fo Kamerun ?
5. Kissinger fit bi president fo Amerika ?
6. Weti wuna wan chop tude ?
7. Weti yu sabi du, bet yu no fit du am ?
8. Fo wich kayn kontri yu fit go ?
9. Weti wuna wan du tumoro ?
10. Hu sabi kuk fufu hon ?

9. Assignment

Imagine that you are the Director of the training program. You have to make rules (Do's and Don't's) for the trainees and trainers. Write out these rules using "mek".

## LESSON 9

1. **Dialogue**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Francis :** Kwa-kwa. | Is there anyone in ? |
| **David :** Ha hu dat ? | Who is it ? |
| **Francis :** Ha mi, sa. | It's me, sir. |
| **David :** Wet smol a opin yu do. | Hold on, let me open the door for you. |
| **Francis :** Gut monin sa. | Good morning, sir. |
| **David :** Gut monin. Enta fo haus. | Good morning. Come in. |
| **Francis :** Tank yu sa. | Thank you sir |
| **David :** Weti a fit du fo yu ? | What can I do for you ? |
| **Francis:** A hye se yu de fayn hausboy. Ha di tin mek mi a kam. | I hear you are looking for a person to work in the house. That's what made me come. (That's why I came) |
| **David :** Ha tru. Ya nem na weti ? | That's true. What is your name ? |
| **Francis :** Ha nem na Francis | My name is Francis. |
| **David :** Husay yu de ste ? | Where do you live ? |
| **Francis :** A de ste fo Ol Kwata | I live in the Old Quarter. |
| **David :** Hameni yie yu de ? | How old are you ? |
| **Francis :** A de twenti-tu yie. | I am twenty-two. |
| **David :** Yu sabi swip haus ? | Can you keep a house clean ? |
| **Francis :** Yes sa, a sabi. | Yes sir, I can. |
| **David :** Yu sabi wosh klos an ayon am ? | Can you wash and iron clothes ? |
| **Francis :** Yes sa. | Yes sir |
| **David :** Wich kayn chop yu sabi kuk ? | What kind of meal can you prepare ? |
| **Francis :** A sabi kuk bita lif sup, a sabi kuk okro an a sabi kuk fufu. A sabi kuk plenti kayn chop. A fit kuk ivin waytman chop. | I can cook soup with "bitter leaves". I can cook "okro" soup, and I can cook "fufu" I can cook many kinds of meals. I can even prepare European dishes. |
| **David :** Tru ? Yu sabi mek hamboga ? | Really ? Can you prepare hamburger ? |
| **Francis :** Weti dem de kol hamboga, sa ? | What is a hamburger, sir ? |
| **David :** Ha som kayn bif we dem mash am, den dem fray am. | It's beef that is ground and then fried. |
| **Francis :** A tin se if yu tich mi ha fo kuk am, a go fit kuk am. | I think, sir, that if you teach me how to prepare it, I'll be able to do so. |

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| | |
|---|---|
| David : Wi go si. Olrayt. A go tek yu fo wok. Yu go bigin wok tumoro fo sevin oklok. | We'll see. All right. I'll employ you. You'll start work tomorrow at seven. |
| Francis : A glat plenti sa. Wich taym a go finish wok ? | I'm very pleased sir. When do I finish for the day ? |
| David : Yu go finish fo tu oklok. | You'll finish at two. |
| Francis : I fayn sa. | That's good sir. |
| David : A go pe yu et tausin fran fo wan mun. If yu wok fayn, a go ad yu tu tausin frag. Yu gri so ? | I'll pay you eight thousand francs a month. If you work well, you'll have an increase of two thousand francs. Do you agree ? |
| Francis : Yes sa. | Yes sir. |

2. Vocabulary

sa : sir

a hye se ... : I hear that

fayn : to look for (You have already seen "fayn" as an adjective to mean "fine" or "well" - Cf. Lesson 1 - Other meanings of "fayn" are : nice, beautiful, pretty, good-looking, handsome).

na di tin mek.... : that's why ...

bita lif sup : soup prepared from vegetables called "bitter leaves" and popularly known as "Ndole".

okro : Kind of fruit-vegetable which when cooked makes the soup gluey, sticky.

fufu : Dough type of food. Usually prepared by pounding tubers (cassava, cocoyams, yams) or from flour (millet, corn, cassava, etc).

masa : Sir. Title used by workers for their employers or superiors. In some homes, women use it for their husbands. Female employers are usually called "Madam". "Masa" is often used informally to mean "man" or "my friend". Examples : "Masa, a don taya!" (Man, I'm tired) and "Masa, ha yu de ?" (My friend, how are you?)

A tin se... : I think that, I suppose that, I believe that...

gri : to agree, to accept

wi go si tumoro : See you tomorrow

si : to see

koret : right, correct, exact

Lesson 9

3. Question on the Dialogue

1. Francis na hu?
2. I hye se David de fayn weti?
3. Husay Francis de ste?
4. Hameni yie i de?
5. Weti Francis sabi kuk?
6. Weti i no sabi kuk?
7. "Hamboga" min se weti?
8. Ha Francis go sabi kuk am?
9. David gri fo tek Francis fo wok?
10. Wich taym Francis go bigin wok?
11. Wich taym i go finish wok?
12. Hamoch David go pe i?
13. Way i go ad tu tausin fran?
14. Francis gri so?
15. Yu go tek hausboy fo wok?

4. Grammar: Object Pronouns

Object pronouns are used to replace nouns in the object position to avoid repetition. The Object Pronouns in Pidgin are:

| Singular | | Plural | |
|---|---|---|---|
| mi | me | wi | us |
| yu | you | wuna | you |
| i(persons) | him/her | dem(am) | them |
| am(objects, animals) | it | dem(am) | them |

Examples

| | |
|---|---|
| a) A de chop fufu | I'm eating "fufu". |
| A de chop am. | I'm eating it. |
| b) Wuna sabi Yaounde. | You know Yaoundé. |
| Wuna sabi am. | You know it. |
| c) Put mimbo fo tebul. | Put the drink on the table. |
| Put am fo tebul. | Put it on the table. |
| d) Yu sabi Marie? | Do you know Marie? |
| Yu sabi i? | Do you know her? |
| e) A go si Peter tumoro. | I shall see Peter tomorrow. |
| A go si i tumoro. | I shall see him tumorow. |
| f) Wuna sabi Sarah an Terence? | Do you know Sarah and Terence? |
| Wuna sabi dem? | Do you know them? |

LESSON 9

| | |
|---|---|
| g) Na hu get dis motosaykul an dis baysikul ?<br>Na hu get dem ? | Who owns this motorcycle and this bicycle ?<br>Who owns them ? |

5. Grammar : "Se" meaning "That"

In Pidgin, "se" often follows words like "fye, tok, tin, hye,min, etc". (words expressing opinion, fear, hope, etc) and serves the same connecting function as the English word "that". Note, however, that whereas English speakers often omit "that", Pidgin speakers always use "se".

tin se

| | |
|---|---|
| a) Wich taym yu go go fo ba ? | When will you go to the bar ? |
| A tin se a go go fo et oklok. | I think I'll go at eight o'clock |
| b) Wich taym yu go slip dis nayt ?<br>A tin se a go slip fo ilevin oklok. | When will you go to bed tonight ?<br>I think I'll go to bed at eleven o'clock |
| c) A tin se ren go fol tude. | I think (that) it will rain today. |
| d) Yu tin se ya papa go kam fo Kamerun ? | Do you think (that) your father will come to Cameroon ? |

tok se

| | |
|---|---|
| a) Ma papa tok se i de veks. | My father says (that) he's angry. |
| b) Hu tok se mek yu kam ? | Who said (that) you should come ? |
| c) I tok se i de hye hongri. | He says he's hungry. |

Fye se

| | |
|---|---|
| a) A fye se i no go kam. | I'm afraid he won't come. |
| b) A fye se wi go mis chop. | I'm afraid we shall miss our meal. |
| c) I fye se dem go tif i moni. | He's afraid they'll steal his money. |

Hye se

| | |
|---|---|
| a) A hye se dem tif ya moni. | I hear they have stolen your money. |
| b) Wi hye se moto jam John. | We hear John had an accident. |
| c) Yu hye se Thomas de fayn yu ? | Did you hear that Thomas is looking for you ? |

Min se (literally, "means to say...")

| | |
|---|---|
| a) "Flop ya bele" min se "fill your stomach" fo grama. | "Flop ya bele" means (to say) "fill your stomach" in English. |
| b) "Kwa-kwa" min se weti ? | What does "kwa-kwa" mean ? |
| c) "Sweetheart" min se weti fo Pidgin ? | What does "sweetheart" mean in Pidgin ? |

## LESSON 9

### 6. Supplementary Vocabulary

Kau-bif: beef

Shwayn-bif: pork

kumkum (wata fufu): Dough-like meal prepared from the flour or paste of fermented cassava.

fufu kon: dough-like food from corn flour.

fufu koko (fufu kassava): pounded cocoyams (pounded cassava)

kwakoko: ground cocoyam wrapped usually in plantain leaves and cooked. It is eaten with a special sauce made out of palm nuts ("banga soup"). Because this food is soft, the word kwakoko has also come to mean "weakling".

ekwan: ground cocoyam wrapped in either cocoyam leaves or bitter leaves and cooked with palm oil fish or meat and spices.

achu: kind of fufu koko. It is mostly eaten in the Western and North-Western Provinces.

faul: hen/rooster/chicken

poteto: (arish poteto): sweet potato (potato)

kwem: soup prepared with cassava leaves and mostly eaten in the Centre-South Province.

jamajama: (njamanjama): general name for vegetables.

planti: plantains

bobolo: (Yaounde bred): fermented cassava, ground and cooked in leaves. It is longish in shape.

myondo: same as "bobolo" but smaller in size.

koki (bins, kon): ground beans or corn, with oil and spices and cooked in leaves.

### 7. Exercise 1

Answer the following questions using an object pronoun (am, dem, i, etc)

Example: Yu sabi John? Yes a sabi i.

1. Yu sabi New York?
2. Wuna sabi Kumba?
3. Yu fit ple futbol?
4. Wuna sabi Susan an Lisa?
5. Yu de hye redio?
6. Hu sabi Nestor?
7. Wuna go helep John wit i homvok?
8. Hu fit drayv?
9. Yu fit fayt Ali an Spinks?
10. Yu fit kari dis tebul?

LESSON 9

8. Exercise II

Transform the following sentences using any of the following expressions where appropriate : tok se ; tin se ; fye se; min se; hye se

Example : A go res smol — A tin se a go res smol.
Dem de sel banana — A hye se dem de sel banana.

1. Dem tif ya moni.
2. I go slip fo twef oklok.
3. "Palava" na "trouble" fo grama.
4. Ren go fol.
5. Wuna no go go fo Satude.
6. Chop go finish fo Mbalmayo.
7. "No man no tumoro" na "No one knows the future" fo grama.
8. Wi go dans sote wi taya.
9. Peter : "Mek wuna kam".
10. Mary : " A get plenti moni".

9. Assignment

You are very hungry and you are in a restaurant. You want a local dish people have very much talked to you about. Write a dialogue between you and the person serving in the restaurant.

2.

## LESSON 10

1. Dialogue

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| David : | Monin Lucas. Yu don kam ? | Good morning Lucas and welcome |
| Lucas : | A don kam. Ashya bo ! A hye se dem don tif fo ya haus. | Thank you. It's a pity. I hear you've been robbed. |
| David : | Na tru. Dem don brok windo fo enta. | That's true. They broke the window to get in. |
| Lucas : | Weti dem don tek ? | What have they stolen ? |
| David : | Dem don tif ol moni fo ma trosa, ma redio an wan han banana fo kichin. | They've stolen all the money I had in my trousers, my radio and one "hand" of bananas from the kitchen. |
| Lucas : | Wan han banana ? Way dem tif banana ? | A hand of bananas? Why did they steal bananas ? |
| David : | Mi a sabi ? Somtaym tif man i tu de hye hongri. | Do I know ? Maybe a thief gets hungry too. |
| Lucas : | Dem don tif ya paspot ? | Was your passport stolen ? |
| David : | Dem no si am. I de onda matras. | They didn't see it. It's under the mattress. |
| Lucas : | Yu don go fo polis steshon? | Have you gone to the Police ? |
| David : | A noba go. Na de a wan go so nau. | Not yet. That's where I'm about to go now. |
| Lucas : | A go kam witi yu. Wi fit go wantaym. | I will come with you. We can go right away. |
| David : | Olrayt. Mek wi bigin go. | Okay. Let's be moving. |
| Lucas : | Yu no de lok do ? Dem fit kam tif egen. | Aren't you going to lock the door ? They could come steal again. |
| David : | A no mayn. Day man no de fye beri graun. Dem don olredi tif ol tin. Notin no lef fo tif egen. | I don't care. He who is down need fear no fall. They've already stolen everything. There's nothing left for them to steal. |
| Lucas : | Jos lok do dasol. Arata no de mek nyanga fo pusi i domot. | Lock the door all the same. One does not play with fire. (see Vocabulary). |

2. Vocabulary

brok : to break, to break into

wan han banana : a "hand" of bananas (a bunch of bananas is made up of several "hands" of bananas

wantaym : immediately, right away

a no mayn : I don't care

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day man : corpse, dead person

beri graun (beni graun) : graveyard

Day man no de fye beri graun : A Pidgin proverb. When translated literally, Pidgin proverbs often lose their meaning. Literally, this proverb means "A corpse does not fear the graveyard". However, it really means "He who is already down need fear no fall". It should be noted that not all Pidgin proverbs have English equivalents and vice versa.

arata(rat) : mouse, rat

pusi : cat

nyanga : to show off, to bluff; pride

domot : threshold

Arata no de mek nyanga fo pusi i domot : Another Pidgin proverb. Literally, it means, "A mouse does not show off at the cat's front door". It means "Don't play with fire".

3. Questions on the Dialogue

1. Dem don tif fo hu i haus ?
2. Ha tif man-dem don enta ?
3. Husay dem si David i moni ?
4. Weti dem tek fo kichin ?
5. Way tif man-dem tif banana ?
6. Way dem no si paspot ?
7. David don olredi go fo polis steshon ?
8. Way i wan go fo de ?
9. Way i no de lok do ?
10. Way day man no de fye beri graun ?
11. Way arata no de mek nyanga fo pusi i domot ?

4. Grammar : The "Unspecified Past Tense" : "Don"

A) "Don" is the indicator of the "Unspecified Past" in Pidgin : it is used to express past events for which the time of the action is unspecified. That is, the speaker wishes to express that a certain action has been done, but he/she does not situate it at any particular time. It is just done, that's all. The action may be (and often is) recent, but may also be quite distant in the past ; whichever it is is not particularly important. In this sense the "Unspecified Past" in Pidgin is fairly similar to the "Present Perfect" in English.

LESSON 10

Examples

| | |
|---|---|
| Dem don tif ma moni. | They have stolen my money |
| Wi don chop. | We have eaten. |
| John don finish i wok. | John has finished his work. |
| A don put ma kago fo tebul. | I have put my things on the table. |

Note that, in the above, when the money was stolen, when we ate, when John finished his work are unspecified. These are probably quite recent actions, but the exact time is not important. The important thing is that they have been done.

As an indicator of an unspecified time, "don" is often used to ask whether one has ever done something.

Examples

| | |
|---|---|
| Yu don chop monki ? | Have you ever eaten monkey ? |
| Yes, a don chop monki. | Yes, I have eaten monkey |
| Yu don go fo Chad bifo ? | Have you ever been to Chad ? |
| Yes, a don go fo Chad. | Yes, I've been to Chad. |

Again, the time is unimportant. The speaker wants only to know whether you have ever done thosethings. You have, and you say so :"A don ...."

B) Negation

The negative form of "don" is noba" (or, in some dialects, "neba"). It is used alone and means you haven't done something yet, or have never done it.

| | |
|---|---|
| a) A don go fo Nigeria. | I've been to Nigeria. |
| A noba go fo Nigeria. | I haven't been to Nigeria.<br>I ve never been to Nigeria. |
| b) Wi don chop bushbif. | We've eaten game. |
| Wi noba chop bushbif. | We haven't eaten game (yet).<br>We've never eaten game. |
| c) I don kam. | He has come. |
| I noba kam. | He hasn't come yet.<br>He never came. |

C) "Don/Noba" vs. Other Past Tenses

The "Unspecified Past" is not the only past tense in Pidgin. When Pidgin speakers wish to fix an action at a specific past time, they use another form. Note the following examples :

LESSON 10

Unspecified :

A don go fo maket. I've been to the market.

Specified :

A bin go fo maket yestede. I went to the market yesterday.

"Bin" is the specified or Simple Past marker. It will be treated in Lesson 11.

5. Supplementary Vocabulary

windo : window

do : door

matras : mattress

pilo : pillow

tifman : thief

tif : to steal

polis steshon : police station

lok : to lock, a lock

kotin gras : cane rat

chukuchuku bif : porcupine

6. Exercise I

Change the following sentences into the Unspecified Past Tense.

Example : A de salut Mary. A don salut Mary.

1. A de tok Pidgin.
2. Thomas de chop bif.
3. Lucas de aks kweshon.
4. Dem de kot stik.
5. Dem de brok windo.
6. Wi de kari dis tebul.
7. I de kuk fufu wit njamanjama.
8. John de memba i kolhat.
9. Dem de ple basketbol.
10. Yu de rid fayn buk.

7. Exercise II

Change each of the following sentences into the negative using "noba":

Example : A don go fo Chad. A noba go fo Chad.

1. Wi don go fo polis steshon.

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2. Ticha don veks.
3. Dem don finish dem homwok.
4. Wuna don lok do.
5. A don si ma trosa.
6. Peter don memba i mitin.
7. Francis don kuk bita lif sup.
8. Masa don go fo wok.
9. Yu don chop achu.
10. Dem don enta fo haus.

8. Exercise III

Answer the following questions.

1. Yu don chop chukuchuku bif bifo ?
2. Wuna don taya fo len Pidgin?
3. Wich kayn bush bif wuna don chop fo Cameroon ?
4. Weti yu don bay sins yu kam fo Cameroon ?
5. Yu don go fo sinima fo dis taun ?

9. Assignment

Make a list of :

a) five unusual things you have done.

b) five things you have never done.

## Lesson 11

### 1. Dialogue

| | |
|---|---|
| Elise: Ah Solo, husay yu bin bi yestede? | Ah Solo, where were you yesterday? |
| Solo: A bin go fo Yaounde. | I went to Yaounde. |
| Elise: Weti yu bin go du fo Yaounde? | What did you go to Yaounde for? |
| Solo: A bin go rayt eksam. | I went to write an examination. |
| Elise: Yu bin rayt am fayn? | Did you write it well? |
| Solo: A bin tray ma bes. | I tried my best. |
| Elise: Dem bin aks yu tron kweshon? | Did they ask difficult questions? |
| Solo: No-o, di kweshon-dem no bin had plenti, dasol se a no bin len fayn. | No, the questions were not very difficult, it's only that I did not study well (hard). |
| Elise: Yu tin se yu go pas? | Do you think you will pass? |
| Solo: A no sabi. Man no day man no rotin, so a no go mayn if a no pas dis taym. | I don't know. As long as there is life there's hope, so I won't mind if I do not pass this time. |
| Elise: I fayn. Na ol tin dat yu bin du fo Yaounde? | That's good. Is that all you did in Yaounde? |
| Solo: Na ol tin dat a bin du. | That's all I did. |
| Elise: Yu no bin si ya kolhat? | Didn't you see your sweetheart? |
| Solo: Oh, na tru. A bin si ma kolhat. Wi bin go sinima an afta sinima wi bin go dans. | Oh, that's true. I saw my sweetheart. We went to the movies and after the movies we went to dance. |
| Elise: Ya kolhat bin kray taym we yu de kam bak fo Mbalmayo? | Did your sweetheart cry when you were returning to Mbalmayo? |
| Solo: A tel yu se, i bin kray sote a no bin wan kam bak sef. Weti wuna bin du hye taym we a no de? | In fact. (I tell you!) She cried so much that I did not even want to come back. What did you do here while I was away? |
| Elise: Wi bin go klas. Fo ivnin wi bin get kros Kolcho. Afta kros kolcho wi bin tori smol, den we slip. | We went to class. We had cross culture in the evening. After cross culture we talked for a while, then we went to bed. |
| Solo: I fayn. Mek a go kip ma kago fo rum. | That's good. Let me go put my luggage in the room. |
| Elise: Smol taym. | See you soon |
| Solo: Tank yu. | Thanks. |

LESSON 11

2. Vocabulary

rayt : write
bes : best
tray : try
trɔŋ : difficult, strong
kweshɔn : question
had : difficult
dasɔl : only, except, except that, it's only that....
pas : succeed, pass

man nɔ day man nɔ rɔtin : As long as there's life, there's hope.
(Proverb : see notes below)

mayn : care, bother
tru : true, truth
sinima : cinema
kray : cry
taym we : when

A tel yu : kind of exclamation serving as a reinforcement to what is being said; really; in fact.

sote : until, so much so that
kam bak : to return
krɔs kɔlchɔ : cross culture
tɔri : conversation, to converse, to talk, story, to narrate
Smɔl : a little, for a while, a bit
kip : keep, store, put away
kago (kako) : luggage, load
smɔl taym : see you soon
sef : even

3. Questions on the Text

1. Husay Solo bin go ?
2. Weti i bin go du fɔ Yaounde ?
3. Ha Solo bin rayt eksam?
4. Dem bin aks Solo trɔŋ kweshɔn ?
5. Wich kayn tin bin hambɔk Solo ?
6. Weti Solo bin du fɔ Yaounde egen ?
7. Weti i an i kolhat dem bi du ?
8. Weti i kolhat bin du taym we Solo de kam bak fɔ Mbalmayo ?
9. Way i bin kray ?
10. Weti Elise bin du taym we Solo de fɔ Yaounde ?

4. Proverb (Parables, Sayings) - "Panapul"

Proverbs are used frequently by Africans in their everyday speech. As one prominent writer put it, proverbs are the palm oil with which

LESSON 11

words are eaten. In many societies it is prestigious to be able to use the correct proverbs at the correct time. There is always a proverb to illustrate a situation. You should therefore start building a collection of common proverbs in Pidgin, their meaning, and when they are used.

5. Grammar - Simple Past Tense

A) In this lesson, a second past tense is introduced, the "specified" or "Simple Past Tense": "bin + verb (or in some dialects: "bi" + verb).

It is very important to distinguish between the Unspecified Past Tense ("don") and the Simple Past Tense ("bin"). As mentioned in Lesson 10, the unspecified Past ("don") is used to express actions where the time is not identified. Where the time of the action is a specific one, the Simple Past is used.

Examples

| | |
|---|---|
| A bin chop koko fo monin taym. | I ate cocoyams this morning. |
| Dem bin go dans yestede. | They went dancing yesterday. |
| Wi bin rich Kumba fo fo oklok | We arrived in Kumba at four o'clock. |

The time of the action need not be identified in every individual sentence. Often it will simply be clear from the context. This is usually the case when you are recounting a story or a sequence of events. If both the speaker and listener know when the action(s) took place, the Simple Past will be used.

Examples

| | |
|---|---|
| a) Tavm we yu bin go fo Buea,<br>weti yu bin du? | When you went to Buea<br>What did you do? |
| A bin go si ma kombi-dem. | I went to see my friends. |
| b) Ticha bin veks fo klas. | The teacher got angry in class. |
| c) Yu don finish ya wok?<br>A bin finish am sins lon taym. | Have you finished your work?<br>I finished it a long time ago. |
| d) Dem bin tel wi lay.* | They told us a lie. |

(* Though no time seems obvious here, "bin" indicates that both the speaker and listener are conscious of when then the lie was told.)

B) Negation

The negative of "bin" is "no bin".

Examples

| | |
|---|---|
| A no bin si i yestede. | I didn't see him yesterday. |
| Wi no bin go fo skul las wik. | We didn't go to school last week. |
| Tom no bin ansa taym we dem bin kol i. | Tom didn't answer when they called him. |

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| | |
|---|---|
| Son no bin shayn fo dat de. | The sun didn't shine that day. |
| I no bin bay notin fo Yaoundé. | He didn't buy anything in Yaoundé. |
| Dem no bin tif ma klos. | They didn't steal my clothes (while they were stealing other things...) |

6. Exercise I

Change the following sentences into the Simple Past Tense (i.e. using "bin").

1. Yu de tok fo klas.
2. Dis gel sabi ple futbol.
3. Ol tin de waka fayn.
4. Ol man de kari kago.
5. Weti i de du fo Yaounde?
6. A de tel wuna fayn tori.
7. Son de shayn plenti.
8. Ren de fol trop trop.
9. Yu de veks kwik kwik?
10. Dat wuman de tif ya moni?

7. Exercise II

Change the following sentences into the regular past using "bin". Use a time marker to fix the time of the action (yestede, las wik, etc).

Example

Tom don go fo maket. Tom bin go fo maket yestede.

1. Mimbo don finish fo ba.
2. Mary don kuk sup.
3. A don kot faul i nek.
4. Yu don go fo Yaounde.
5. Wi don wosh klos.
6. Wuna don drink ol ti.
7. Eroplen don fol.
8. Faya don ben mi.
9. A don si James Bond film.
10. Randy don si mi.

LESSON 11

8. Exercise III

Change the following sentences into the negative using "no bin."

Example: Dem bin kari dat tebul. Dem no bin kari dat tebul.

1. Lisa bin kam let fo klas yestede.
2. Wuna bin foget wuna buk-dem.
3. Dem bin chop ol dat fufu.
4. John bin bi fo maket las wik.
5. Ma papa bin bi big man fo Kamerun.
6. Pipol-dem bin hye di bat nyus.
7. William bin tok se yu tif i buk.
8. Ol pipol dem bin bi fo fil plenti.
9. Dat dans yestede bin fayn plenti.
10. A bin put pepe fo dat sup.

9. General Questions

1. Hu bin bi president fo Amerika fo 1974?
2. Weti yu bin chop yestede?
3. Husay ol pipel-dem bin bi las nayt?
4. Weti yu no bin brip fo Amerika taym we yu de kam fo Kamerun?
5. Hu no bin kam fo klas las wik?
6. Way i no bin kam fo klas?
7. Weti ya papa bin tel yu bifo yu wan kam fo Kamerun?
8. Wich kontri no bin bi fo "Olympics"?
9. Weti yu bin wan du yestede?

10. Assignment

Prepare a short presentation on any of the following topics:

1. A time when you were in danger.
2. A time when you were embarrassed.
3. A strange dream you had.
4. A serious accident in which you were involved.
5. A topic of your choice (in the past).

## LESSON 12

Dialoque for a Monday Morning...

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Lucas : | Monin bo David, ha yu slip? | Good morning my friend David, how did you sleep? |
| David : | A slip fayn, dasol se a bin taya plenti yestede. | I slept well, except that I was very tired yesterday. |
| Lucas : | Na so! Yu bin ste log taym wit dat gel fo Satude ivnin? | Oho! Did you spend a long time with that girl Saturday evening? |
| David : | Wich gel? | Which girl? |
| Lucas : | A min dat gel we i bin sidog fo wi tebul. | I'm talking about the girl who sat at our table. |
| David : | Dat wan we i bin wye blak klos? | The one who had a blak dress on? |
| Lucas : | Na i! Di wan we yu an i bin dans hol tayt sote wuna taya. | That's her! the one you danced the slow tune with until you were both exhausted. |
| David : | Bo lef mi. I bin go i. | Leave me alone, friend. She went away. |
| Lucas : | Ha? Weti bin hapin? | What? What happened? |
| David : | I bin get fo go lif i sista-dem fes, den i mit mi fo ba egen. I go an i no kam bak. | She was supposed to go see off her sisters, then meet me in the bar after. She left and never came back. |
| Lucas : | Bet yu fo go wit i. Ha yu lif i go i wan? | But you should have accompanied her. Why did you let her go alone? |
| David : | I fo tin se a de hambok i. | She would have thought I was bothering her. |
| Lucas : | Ah yu tu! Oda taym, no lif i go i wan. | Ah! (exasperation) next time don't let her go alone. |
| David : | A no mayn. Yu no se, de no bi wan. Anoda Satude go kam. | I don't care. You know a day doesn't come only once. There'll be another Saturday. |
| Lucas : | Olrayt bo, tray ya lok. | All right friend, good luck. |

Vocabulary

| | |
|---|---|
| dasol se...; onli se... | Except that...,(it's) only that... |
| taya | to be tired |
| taya fo... | to be tired of... |
| we | Who, whom, which, that (see grammar section) |
| wye | to wear, to put on |
| hol tayt | a slow tune (one where you can "sueeze" or "hold tight") |

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| | |
|---|---|
| Na i. | That's him (her/it)<br>That's the one. |
| Bo lif mi. | It is difficult to find an English equivalent to this. It is used when the person saying it is sorry for himself, pities himself, or blames himself. ("Woe is me!") |
| get fo | To have to, to be supposed to, ought to (see grammar section) |
| hapin | To happen |
| fo + verb | Should have (see grammar section) |
| i wan | Alone ; by onself |
| oda taym | Next time |
| a no mayn | I don't care ; if doesn't matter |
| de no bi wan | A proverb meaning literally, "A day doesn't come only once". As with all proverbs, there are several meanings. In this context, David is saying that there will be other chance. |

Questions on the Dialogue

1. Ha David bin slip?
2. Ha i bodi bin bi yestede?
3. Weti Lucas bin aks David?
4. Weti David bin ansa?
5. Ha di gel we Lucas min de?
6. David bin ste lon taym wit dat gel?
7. Weti bin hapin?
8. Wich mistek David bin mek?
9. Way David no bin folo dat gel?
10. Wich kayn advays Lucas bin gif fo David?
11. Na gut advays dat?
12. Way David tok se "De no bi wan"?

Grammar : The Relative Pronoun - "we"

The English relative pronouns "who", "whom", "whose" and "which" are all expressed in Pidgin by the formula: "we + pronoun.

LESSON 12

Note the sentences in the dialogue above :

A min dat gel we i bin sidon fo wi tebul.

"I mean the girl who (she) sat at our table".

Dat wan we i bin wye blak klos ?

"The one who (she) had on a black dress?

A. "we" as "Who"

Examples :

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. A bin gif ma buk fo dat wuman. | "I gave my book to that woman." |
| Dat wuman bin kam hye yestade. | "That woman came here yesterday." |
| = A bin gif ma buk fo dat wuman we i bin kam hye yestade. | "I gave my book to that woman who came here yesterday". |
| 2. Yu bin tok fo dat gel. | "You spoke to that girl." |
| Dat gel bin wye blak klos. | "That girl wore a black dress." |
| = Yu bin tok fo dat gel we i bin wye blak klos. | "You spoke to that girl who wore a black dress" |

B. "we" as "Whom"

Examples :

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. A bin gif ma buk fo som wuman yestede. | I gave my book to a woman yesterday. |
| Na di wuman dat. | That's the woman. |
| = Na di wuman dat we a bin gif ma buk fo i yestede. | That's the woman to whom I gave my book yesterday. |
| 2. Na di boy dat. | That' s the boy. |
| Wi bin tok fo i las mun. | We spoke to him last month. |
| = Na di boy dat we wi bin tok fo i las mun. | That's the boy whom we spoke to last month. |

C. "we" as "Whose"

Examples :

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. A bin gif medsin fo dat boy | I gave medicine to that boy. |
| Dat boy i fut de hot. | That boy's leg is hurting (him). |
| = A bin gif medsin fo dat boy we i fut de hot. | I gave medicine to that boy whose leg is hurting. |
| 2. Na di man dat. | That's the man. |
| Dat man i pikin bin tif shwayn. | That man's child stole a pig. |

LESSON 12

| | |
|---|---|
| = Na di man dat we i pikin bin tif shwayn. | That's the man whose child stole a pig. |

D. "we" as "which" or "that"

Examples :

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Wi don drink ol dat mimbo. | We've drunk all that wine. |
| Yu bin bay am yestede. | You bought it yesterday. |
| = Wi don drink ol dat mimbo we yu bin bay am yestede. | We've drunk all the wine which you bought yesterday. |
| 2. Di shus dem de fo graun. | The shoes are on the floor. |
| Di shus dem doti. | The shoes are dirty. |
| = Di shus we dem de fo graun dem doti. | The shoes which are on the floor are dirty. |

E. You will have noticed from the example above that Pidgin speakers generally use :

we + a pronoun (i, am, dem, yu, etc),

Whereas English requires only a "who", "which", "that" (and sometimes nothing) to connect the two parts of the sentence. The additional pronoun is never used in English.

| | |
|---|---|
| Dat man we a bin si i... | The man that I saw ...<br>The man I saw ....<br>(The additional "him" is not necessary in English) |
| Ol di mimbo we yu bin bay am... | All the beer which you bought ...<br>All the beer you bought...<br>(The additional "it" is not necessary in English) |
| Dat boy we i fut de hot... | The boy whose foot hurts ...<br>(The additional "his" is not necessary in English) |

The above practice of using we + something else generally holds in Pidgin. The exception would be when "we" is followed by an "i". The two sounds kind of slide together:

"Dat wan we i bin wye blak klos"

May often be pronounced :

"Dat wan wey bin wye blak klos"

Otherwise, the practice of we + something else is always followed.

LESSON 12

Grammar : The Auxiliary Verbs "Get fo..." and "Fo..."

A. "Get fo..." in Pidgin is equivalent to "to have to ...", "must" or "to be supposed to..." in English. It does not need a tense marker ("de") when used in the present, but when used in other tenses takes bin, go, etc...like any other verb.

Examples :

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. A get fo res tude. | I have to rest today<br>I must rest today. |
| 2. I get fo si dentis dis monin. | He has to see the Dentist this morning.<br>He is supposed to see the Dentist this morning. |
| 3. Dem bin get fo sel dem kago. | They had to sell all their goods. |

The negative of "get fo... is "no get fo..." It means "must not".

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Yu no get fo kam tude. | You must not come today |
| 2. Wuna no get fo tok. | You must not talk. |

B. "Fo..." in Pidgin is equivalent to "should have..." or "ought to have..." in English.

The negative "no fo..." means "should not have..." or ought not to have..."

Note that this verb automatically pertains to the past ; it indicates actions which should have or should not have been done already. It needs no special past tense marker.

Examples :

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Yu fo put ya moni fo bank. | You should have put your money in the bank. |
| 2. A fo bring ma ombrela. | I should have brought my umbrella. |
| 3. I fo gif yu i adres. | He should have given you his address. |
| 4. Yu no fo tok so. | You shouldn't have talked that way. |
| 5. Wi no fo drink dat wata. | We should not have drunk that water. |

N.B. : "Fo + verb" can also be used to mean "nearly..."

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Snek fo bayt mi yestede. | A snake nearly bit me yesterday. |
| 2. Wi fo get aksiden dis monin. | We nearly had an accident this morning. |
| 3. I fo los i moni fo maket. | He nearly lost his money in the market. |

## LESSON 12

### Supplementary Vocabulary

#### A. Colors

With colors, the influence of local languages is greatly felt. Since, in many local languages, only a few colors are commonly distinguished, Pidgin speakers may often use only blak, red and wayt.

Blak : used for any dark color (blak, grey, blue, green, purple, etc)

Red : used for any light color (red, yellow, orange, etc)

Wayt : White.

However, the influence of English has introduced other colors, and Pidgin speakers are using them more and more.

Grin : green  blu : blue

Yelo : yellow (also means "fair-complexioned", as in :

Ma sista yelo : My sister is fair-complexioned)

#### B. Clothes

shet : shirt

tay : tie

gaun : gown

hausa gaun : robes (from the Northern Province)

kaba : large loose gown worn by women (very popular)

lapa (rapa) : loin cloth, wrapper

dros : drawers, underwear

trosa, trosis : trousers

feskap : cap

shot trosa (nika) : shorts

kap : cap, hat

jompa (bubu) : loose shirt worn mostly by men

slipas ("san konfians") : slippers

stokins (soks) : socks

kot : coat

monki kot : waistcoat

sweta : pullover, sweater

hed tay : headscarf.

### Exercise 1

Combine the following sentences using "we"

Example : Mary de tok fo dat man

Dat man get wan han : Mary de tok fo dat man we i get wan han.

1. Peter de fayn kolhat. Di kolhat mus get gud fashon

2. Man kari solt. Man de fye ren.

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3. Dat bol don bos. Wi bin bay am fo maket.
4. Wi don chop dat monki. I bin get tri fut.
5. Kol mi dat wuman. Dat wuman wye wayt klos.
6. A go sel ma shet. Di shet red layk banana.
7. Ma papa go bay dat moto. Di moto red.
8. A bin rid dat leta. Yu bin rayt am yestede.

Exercise II

Transform the following sentences using 'get fo'

Example : A go chop hamboga. A get fo chop hamboga.

1. Yu de klin tebul.
2. Wi go dans tude.
3. Nancy de rid buk.
4. Ma dog de chop bif.
5. Wuna go swip rod.
6. Redio de tok nyus.
7. Papa go bit yu.
8. Patricia no de drink plenti mimbo.
9. I no de chop monki.

Exercise III

Answer the following questions in Pidgin.

1. Weti yu get fo du dis ivnin ?
2. Weti man get fo du fo bi president fo Amerika ?
3. Husay yu get fo go if yu de sik ?
4. Hu get fo swip ya rum evride ?
5. Weti yu fo du if yu no bin kam fo Kamerun?
6. Husay yu fo go yestede ?
7. Wich kayn tin wi fo len yestede ?
8. Wich taym pipol get fo dans holtayt ?
9. Weti yu no get fo du if yu de go si big man ?
10. Weti Abraham Lincoln no fo du ?

Assignment

For the next class, prepare ten things you have to do during your two-year stay in Cameroon, and ten things you should have done before coming to Cameroon.

## LESSON 13

1. DIALOGUE:

| | |
|---|---|
| Paul: A hye se yu de go tumoro. | I hear you are leaving tomorrow. |
| Lucy: Na tru. A get fo enta eroplen tumoro fo fo oklok. | That's true. I have to catch the plane tomorrow at 4 oclock. |
| Paul: We-e, yu no fit ste egen layk tu de? | Oh, can't you spend about two more days? |
| Lucy: A fo layk fo ste, onli se a don olredi bay tiket fo eroplen. | I would have loved to stay but I have already bought my airplane ticket. |
| If a no bin don risev ples fo eroplen, a fo ste egen layk tu de. | If I had not already reserved a seat, I would have spent about two more days. |
| Paul: We-e, ma hat no de glat insayd as yu de go. | Oh, I'm sad thay you are leaving. |
| Lucy: If yu bin wan mek a ste, yu fo tel mi sins long. | If you had wanted me to stay, you should have told me long ago. |
| Paul: Bet a no bin no se yu go go kwik kwik so. | But I didn't know you would be leaving so soon. |
| Wetin yu de go du fo Yaounde? | What are you going to do in Yaounde? |
| Douala fayn pas Yaounde bay fa. | Douala is by far more beautiful than Yaounde. |
| Douala get fayn sinima an nayt klob pas Yaounde. | Douala has more beautiful cinemas and night clubs than Yaounde. |
| Douala klin pas Yaounde. | Douala is cleaner than Yaounde. |
| Layf de fo Douala pas fo Yaounde. | Douala is more lively than Yaounde. |
| Lucy: Chey! yu sabi lay! | Geez! How you can tell lies! |
| Douala doti pas Yaounde; na di tin mek moskito dem plenti fo hye. | Douala is dirtier than Yaounde, that's why there are so many mosquitos here. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Tif pipol dem plenti fo Douala pas fo Yaoundé, | There are more thieves in Douala than in Yaoundé, |
| an Yaounde klaymet fayn pas klaymet fo Douala. | and Yaounde has a better climate than Douala. |
| Pipol fo Douala no get moni rich pipol fo Yaounde. | People in Douala don't have as much money as people in Yaounde. |
| Paul: Olrait nyango, mek wi no fayt fo notin. | All right, miss. Let's not quarrel over nothing. |
| Sins yu de go tumoro, wi fit go dans fo 'Kings'. | Since you are leaving tomorrow, let's go and dance at 'Kings'. |
| Lucy: A no wan dans tude. Mek we insted go luk Manu Dibango i konsat fo WOURI. | I don't want to dance today. Instead, let's go see Manu Dibango's concert at the WOURI. |
| Paul: Oh, dat wan dye plenti. Bet if a get moni bifo sevin oklok, wi go go. | Oh, that's too expensive. But if I have money before seven o'clock, we shall go. |
| Lucy: Yu de ova-kray puo. | You complain too much of being poor. |
| Paul: Ha fo yu? Ya pe big layk ma on, bet yu no fit eva tek mi fo sinima. | What about you? Your pay is as much as mine, but you never can take me to the movies. |
| Lucy: A de go. Yu de wes ma taym. | I'm going. You are wasting my time. |
| A fo don pak ma kago nau fo haus. | I could have already packed my luggage at home by nov. |
| Paul: Chus mi. Palava finish. | I'm sorry. No more quarrelling. |
| A go kam tek yu fo haf pas sevin fo go si Manu Dibango i konsat. | I'II come and get you at seven thirty so that we can go to Manu Dibango's concert. |
| Lucy: Olrayt, a de wet yu bet mek yu no ful mi. | All right, I'II be waiting for you but don't let me down! |
| Pual: No-o, a go kam tru tru. Smol taym. | Oh no, I'II come for sure. See you soon. |
| Lucy: Enhe | mmm mmm mm. |

2. VOCABULARY:

| | |
|---|---|
| eroplen | airplane |
| layk | about...; as much as... |
| layk (verb) | to like |
| onli se | only that, except that, but |

| | |
|---|---|
| sins lon | long ago, since long ago |
| pas... | more... than |
| bay fa | by far |
| chey! | kind of exclamation in Pidgin. Geez! Lord! Holy smoke! |
| sabi lay | Literally it means, "know how to tell lies". |
| Kings | Name of a night club in Douala. |
| Wouri | Name of a cinema hall in Douala. |
| Konsat | concert |
| dye | expensive |
| ova- | too much (usually attached to a verb) |
| kray puo | complain of poverty, "to cry poverty" |
| eva | ever |
| chus mi | I'm sorry. Forgive me |
| ful (verb) | to deceive, to cheat, to fool |
| tru tru | surely, truly |
| enhe | kind of disbelieving acceptance |

---

ova + verb:

The small adverb -"ova" is often attached to verbs in Pidgin to emphasize that the action has been done too much or a great deal.

| | |
|---|---|
| A don ova-fayn dat man. | I searched and searched for that man. |
| Yu don ova-drink mimbo. | You drank too much. |
| I de ova-krai puo. | He complains too much of poverty. |

3. QUESTIONS:

1. Na hu-dem de tok?
2. Wich taym Lucy get fo go, an husay?
3. Ha Paul i hut de as Lucy get fo go?
4. Foseka wetin Lucy no fit ste egen layk tu de?
5. Wetin Paul fo du if i bin wan mek Lucy ste egen?
6. Tok tri tin we Douala pas Yaounde an tri tin we Yaounde pas Douala.
7. Wetin Paul wan mek i an Lucy du dat nayt?
8. Wetin Lucy wan mek dem du?
9. Paul i pe pas Lucy i on? Ha dem pe de?
10. If yu bin bi Paul wetin yu fo du fo mek Lucy ste egen layk tu de? (tak layk tri tin)

4.A. GRAMMAR: THE CONDITIONAL

As there are similarities between Pidgin and English Conditional tenses, let us first look at how the Conditional is expressed in English.

1. Future Conditional: "If" + present tense verb + future tense verb

   Example: If it rains, I will stay.

   This shows a likely situation.

2. Simple Conditional: "If" + past tense verb + conditional verb ("would")

   Example: If it rained, I would stay.

   This shows a possible but less likely situation than the first.

3. The Past Conditional: "If" + past perfect verb ("had") + past conditional ("would have")

   Example: If it had rained, I would have stayed.

   This is the "hypothetical" conditional. It refers to something which could have happened in the past but which in fact did not.

Let us now consider the Pidgin forms of the three examples given above:

1. If it rains, I will stay.

   If ren fol, a go ste.

2. If it rained, I would stay.

   If ren fol, a go ste. (same as N° 1)

3. If it had rained, I would have stayed.

   If ren bin fol, a fo ste.

   We can now make the following deductions:

1. The Future Conditional and Simple Conditional in English are both represented by the same structure in Pidgin (let us call it "Simple Conditional").

   Examples:

| | |
|---|---|
| If a chop, a go slip. | If I eat, I will sleep. |
| If a chop, a go slip. | If I ate, I would sleep. |
| If i brok di glas, i go pe am. | If he breaks the glass, he will pay for it. |

   To review, this Simple Conditional in Pidgin expresses two types of actions:

   a) Those likely to happen

   b) Those which are less likely, but still possible.

   The grammatical formula for the Pidgin Simple Conditional is:

   If + Simple verb (no tense markers) + fururе (go + verb)

   If a drink mimbo a go slip

2. The Hypothetical Conditional in Pidgin is expressed by the following structure:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| If | + | bin + verb | + | fo + verb |
| If | | a bin no | | a fo tel i. |

   Examples:

| | |
|---|---|
| If a bin no, a fo tel i. | If I had known, I would have told him. |
| If wi bin go choch, wi fo si di nyu pasto. | If we had gone to church, we would have seen the new pastor. |

3. Finally, there is an additional Conditional form in Pidgin which should be kept in mind:

   a) If a bin don chop, a fo don go.

      If I had (already) eaten, I would have (already) left.

   b) If i bin don si Lucy, i fo don brin i fo ya haus.

      If he had (already) seen Lucy, he would have (already) brought her to your house.

   The Structure of the above sentences is:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| If | + | bin don + verb | + | fo don + verb |

This form, with bin don and fo don, shows a situation which has not yet happened, but which is still expected to happen. (Hence the idea of "already brought her". He still expects to see her and still expects to bring her. For Pidgin speakers, bin don, and fo don express exactly this concept. Listen for it; you will hear it.

4.B. The Negative in the Conditional

The negative form of the Conditional in Pidgin is as straightforward as can be. You just put "no" in front of anything you wish to negate.

1. Simple Conditional

| | |
|---|---|
| If yu no chop, yu no go slip. | If you do not eat, you will not sleep.<br>If you did not eat, you would not sleep. |
| If ren fol, a no go go maket. | If it rains, I will not go to the market. |

2. Hypothetical Conditional

| | |
|---|---|
| If a no bin no, a no fo tel i. | If I hadn't known, I wouldn't have told him. |
| If yu bin get di moni, yu no fo aks mi. | If you had gotten the money, you wouldn't have asked me. |

3. "bin don and fo don"

Though this "bin/fo don" form of the Cinditional is unlikely to appear in the negative, "bin don" and "fo don", used separately in others contexts would still be negated with no.

A no bin don go.

A no fo don go.

## 4.B. GRAMMAR: Fo + verb; Fo don + verb

1. Fo + verb (already treated in lesson 12)

| | |
|---|---|
| A fo bring ma ombrela. | I should have brought my umbrella. |
| I fo tel mi sef se i de go. | He ought to have at least told me he was leaving. |
| Yu no fo tok dat. | You shouldn't have spoken about that. |

In summary, fo + verb can be equivalent to "should have..." "would have...," "ought to have...," or "could have....,". It always refers to the past.

2. Fo don + verb adds an element. Whatever the action, it should already have been done by now.

| | |
|---|---|
| Yu fo don rayt di leta. | You should have already written the letter by now. |
| Wi fo don rich Kumba. | We could have already arrived in Kumba by now. |
| Mary fo don kuk chop. | Mary ought to have already prepared the meal by now. |

In summary, fo don + verb can be equivalent to:

"should have already...."
"would have already...." (by now)
"ought to have...."
"could have already...."

It refers to something which should (could, would) have been done in the past, has not been, but still can be done. Obviously, this form would be rare in the negative.

4.C. GRAMMAR: COMPARISONS

1. More...than = "pas"

| | |
|---|---|
| John ol pas Mary. | John is older than Mary. |
| Mary get broda-dem pas Peter. | Mary has more brothers than Peter. |
| Douala big pas Kumba. | Douala is bigger than Kumba. |
| England kol pas Kamerun. | England is colder than Cameroon. |

2. As....as = layk

| | |
|---|---|
| Wi skul big layk wuna on. | Our school is as big as yours. |
| Ma broda get pawa layk Hercules. | My brother is as powerful as Hercules. |
| Bofot bita layk Gol Hap. | Beaufort is as bitter as Gold Harp. |

3. Less....than = "no...rich"

| | |
|---|---|
| Michael no get moni rich Lawrence. | Michael has less money thanLavrence. |
| Jane no get klos rich Mary. | Jane has less dresses than Mary. |
| Orenj no swit rich banana. | Oranges are less sweet than bananas. |

4. "Pas mak", "taym no de", "pas ol"

These are useful Pidgin expressions which indicate the superlative or a high degree of comparison.

Examples:

| | |
|---|---|
| Dis sup swit pas mak. | This soup is very tasty. |
| Solt pas mak fo dis chop. | There is too much salt in this food. |
| Wata fo de doti taym no de. | The water there is very dirty. |
| Ma broda tron pas ol. | My brother is stronger than anyone. |

5. EXERCISE I. Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Husay yu go go if yu get holide?
2. Wetin yu go wye if ren fol?
3. If darekto fo Pis Kops kam si yu, wetin yu go gi i?
4. Husay yu fo bi if yu no bin kam fo Cameroon?
5. Yu fo go Chad if Pis Kops bin wan sen yu fo de?
6. Wetin yu fo don du if yu bi don rich sevinti yie?
7. If yu no bin don joyn Pis Kops wetin yu fo don du?

EXERCISE II: Complete the following sentences:

1. If tumoro na pɔlik holide.....
2. If tude bin bi sonde,.....
3. If wata finish fo hye,.....
4. If a no bin si yu,.....
5. If ma papa win lotri,.....
6. If a bin don finish ma wok,.....
7. If di tif man no bin mek noys,.....
8. If yu no bin wekop mi dis monin,.....
9. If dans de tude,.....
10. If ma famili-dem kam si mi fo Kamerun,.....

EXERCISE III:

Look at this table and then answer the questions below it in complete sentences.

| | Age | Height | Weight in ibs. | Shoe Size | Marks in an Exam |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BOYS | | | | | |
| Peter | 18 | 6' 0" | 175 | 10 | 58% |
| Lucas | 16 | 5' 6" | 148 | 7 | 54% |
| Paul | 17 | 5' 9" | 144 | 9 | 63% |
| GIRLS | | | | | |
| Lucy | 16 | 5' 4" | 115 | 4 | 66% |
| Josephine | 15 | 5' 1" | 106 | 3 | 56% |
| Rose | 19 | 5' 6" | 121 | 5 | 75% |

1. Wich skul pikin get sens pas ol?
2. Hu i shus smol pas Paul i on?
3. Rose tol layk hu fo dat klas?
4. Wich skul pikin dol pas ol?
5. Josephine i hevi rich Lucy?
6. Hu i fut big pas ol?
7. Wich skul pikin shot pas ol?
8. Yu hevi rich Peter?
9. Ya fut big pas Josephine i on?
10. Yu ol layk Rose?

6. **ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Say five things you would have done if you had not joined the Peace Corps.
2. Say five things you would not have known or seen if you had not come to Cameroon.
3. Say five things you would do if you were an actor.
4. Choose any town in the United States and compare it to any town you know in Cameroon. (Your points should include amongst others, size, climate, population, buildings, roads, etc.)

## LESSON 14

## TOTIS AN SHWAYN (YU DU GUD I TON BAD)

Totis an shwayn bin bi fren fes fes taym. Ol tin bin de waka fayn sote de we chop finish fo di hol kontri. Totis an i famili dem no bin get somtin fo chop. Bet shwayn bin get plenti chop an plenti moni bikos i no bin get famili an i bin sabi yus i tin-dem. So wan de wen hongri pas totis fo skin, i wekop go fo shwayn i haus.

Totis: Kwa kwa fo hye.

Shwayn: Ah bo totis, enta fo haus. Ha yu don dray so?

Totis: Bo, sins sevin de nau, a noba chop. Bo shwayn, ha yu se soso fat so?

Shwayn: Bo lif mi, na chop. As yu noba chop, na chop dis. Chop fes den wi go tori afta.

So totis chop, i chop sote i bele wan bos. Wen i don chop beleful i tok se:

Totis: Bo, tank yu plenti. If no bi yu a fo day. Bo, na som ogent tin mek mi a kam si yu. A wan se mek yu boro mi moni. Ma fes man pikin don rich taym fo mari. I wan se mek a bay i wuman.

Shwayn: Hamoch yu wan se mek a boro yu?

Totis: A wan se mek yu boro mi fifti tausin fraŋ.

Shwayn: Sins yu bi ma fren, a go boro yu fifti tausin fraŋ as yu tok. Wich taym yu go bak am?

Totis: A go bak am afta wan mun.

So shwayn boro totis fifti tausin fran. Bet totis no yus dis moni fo bay wuman fo i fes pikin. Insted, totis tek di moni bay chop an mimbo, i an i famili-dem chop an dem drink.

Wan mun pas, totis no pe shwayn i moni. Tu mun pas, tri mun pas, totis no pe shwayn i moni. So shwayn wekop fo go aks totis moni. Taym we totis si shwayn de kam totis go hayd fo onda bed. I tel i wuman se mek i tok se i don go waka.

Shwayn: A salut Misis totis. Husayn ya masa de?

Misis totis: Ma masa don go fo loŋ waka.

Shwayn: Wich taym i go kam bak?

Misis totis: A no no mi. I no tel mi.

Shwayn: Olrait, wen i kam, tel i se mek i briŋ ma moni.

So shwayn go. Anoda mun pas. Wen shwayn kam fayn totis, misis totis stil tel i se totis don go waka. Siks mun don pas. Shwayn don veks tru tru. I kari i kotlas se i de go kil totis.

Totis bin bi fo i domot. I si shwayn de kam fawe wit veks an wit kotlas fo han. Totis no se dis taym no bi na ple. I no se palava don baje. So i tel i wuman se:

Totis: Ma kolhat. Tori don baje. Shwayn de kam wit kotlas fo kil me. Tek mi ton am opsayd daun, den yu stat grayn granot fo ma bele. If shwayn aks yu husay a de, tok se a don go kil bif.

So totis i wuman tek totis ton am opsayd daun, den i stat mash granot fo i bele. Shwayn enta.

so? Shwayn salut misis totis bet misis totis no ansa i salut. Shwayn salut egen misis totis no ansa. Dis tin veks shwayn bat. Wit ol veks i tek misis totis i 'pepe ston' trowe fo bush. Misis Totis stat kray troŋ troŋ.

Dat 'pepe ston' we shwayn trowe am bin bi na totis i sef sef. So wen totis don fol fo bush, i wekop stat kam bak fo haus. Wen i enta haus i mit i wuman de kray an i mit shwayn we i wan bos wit veks.

Totis: Ma kolhat, wetin yu de kray? Hu don bit yu?

Misis totis: Na..... na Masa Shwayn don tek ma 'pepe ston' trowe am fo bush.

Shwayn: Yes, na mi a trowe di pepe ston. A kam tek ma moni. A du yu gud nau i don ton bad. Tude mi na yu go wye wan fut trosis. If yu no bak ma moni tude, ayda yu kil mi o a kil yu. A don sayn da.

Totis: Eh, eh bo, ha yu de mek so? Yu tin se a fit chop ya moni? A noba kam bak ya moni bikos a get plenti wok. A don get ya moni sins. Fes go briŋ ma wuman i pepe ston. If yu briŋ di pepe ston, a go gif ya moni.

Shwayn: Dat wan na izi tin. A de go briŋ ya wuman i pepe ston. No tray ful mi wen a kam bak. If yu tray, ma kotlas go ansa yu.

Shwayn komot fo go fayn di pepe ston. I stat fayn am fo di bush we di pepe ston bin fol. I stat dig potopoto wit i nos fo fayn pepe ston ; Sins shwayn no no se di pepe ston bin bi na totis i sef sef, i fayn pepe ston sote i no si am. I pas i ha i go go bak fo totis we i noba si di pepe ston.

Na di tin mek shwayn de stil dig potopoto wit i nos sote tude: i de fayn totis i pepe ston.

2) The Tortoise and the Pig (Good breeds evil)

A long time ago, Tortoise and Pig were close friends. Everything was fine between the two friends until the day famine broke out in the whole country. Tortoise and his family had nothing to eat. Pig, on the other hand, had plenty of food and money because he had no family and he was economical. One day, when Tortoise could no longer bear the hunger, he went to Pig's house ;

Tortoise: Is there anyone in?

Pig: Oh friend Tortoise, please come in. Why have you lost so much weight?

Tortoise: My friend, I have had nothing to eat for seven days. But my friend Pig, why are you continually putting on weight?

Pig: What can I say, my friend; it's food. Since you've not eaten, here is some food. Eat first and we shall talk later.

So Tortoise ate and ate until he nearly burst. When he had eaten, his fill, he said:

Tortoise: Thanks a lot, my friend. If not for you, I would have died. I've come to see you for something urgent. I would like you to lend me some money. My first son is old enough to get married. he wants me to get him a wife.

Pig: How much do you want me to lend you?

Tortoise: I would like you to lend me fifty thousand francs.

Pig: Since you are my friend, I will lend you fifty thousand francs as you say. When will you return it?

Tortoise: I'll return it in a month's time.

So Pig lent Tortoise fifty thousand francs. But Tortoise did not use this money to get a wife for his first son. Instead, Tortoise took this money to buy food and drinks which he and his family ate and drank.

After one month, Tortoise did not return Pig's money. Two months passed ; three months passed ; Tortoise did not return Pig's money. So Pig went to Tortoise's house to ask for his money. When Tortoise saw Pig coming, he went and hid himself under the bed. He told his wife to tell Pig that he had gone on a journey.

Pig: Hello Mrs. Tortoise, where's your husband?

Mrs. Tortoise: My husband has gone on a long journey.

Pig: When will he be back?

Mrs. Tortoise: I do not know. He didn't tell me.

Pig: All right ; when he returns tell him to bring my money.

Pig went away. After another month Pig came to look for Tortoise but again Mrs. Tortoise told him Tortoise had gone on a journey. After six months, Pig got very angry. He took his machete with the intention of killing Tortoise.

Tortoise was in front of his house. He saw Pig coming angrily from afar with a machete in his hand. He knew that there would be no joking this time. He knew that things had become very serious So he said to his wife:

Tortoise: Darling, things are serious. Pig is coming with a machete to kill me. Turn me upside-down and grind groundnuts on my stomach. If Pig asks you where I am, tell him I've gone hunting.

So Tortoise's wife turned Tortoise upside-down and started grinding grounduts on his stomach. Pig came in.

He greeted Mrs. Tortoise but she did not return his greetings. He greeted her again but still she did not answer. This annoyed Pig. With anger, he took Mrs Tortoise's'grinding stone' and threw it far into the bush. Mrs Tortoise started crying bitterly.

The 'grinding stone' which Pig had thrown away was Tortoise himself. So when Tortoise was thrown into the bush he got up and came back to the house. When he entered the house he met his wife crying and he saw Pig almost bursting with anger.

Tortoise: Darling, why are you crying? Who has beaten you?

Mrs. Tortoise: It's....it's Mr. Pig who has thrown my 'grinding stone' into the bush.

Pig: Yes, I have thrown away the grinding stone. I've come to get my money. I did you a good turn but you're doing me a bad one. We're going to fight it out today. If you do not give back my money, you will kill me or I I kill you. It's life or death.

Tortoise: Oh, my friend. How can you be this way? Do you think that I've 'eaten' your money? I didn't come to give back your money because I've been very busy. I had your money ready long ago. Bit first you must go bring back my wife's grinding stone. If you bring the grinding stone I'll give you your money.

Pig: That's an easy thing. I'm going to get your wife's grinding stone. Do not dare play tricks on me when I return. If you dare, I'll use my machete on you.

Pig went out to look for the grinding stone. He looked for it in the bush where he had thrown it. He used his nose to dig up mud looking for the grinding stone. Since Pig did not know that the grinding stone was Tortoise himself, he looked for it but he could not find it. He didn't know how he could return to Tortoise's house without the grinding stone.

That is why Pig is still digging up mud with his nose till today: he is looking for Tortoise's grinding stone.

3) VOCABULARY

| | |
|---|---|
| totis (also "troki) | tortoise (noted in Africa for its cunning) both 'totis and 'troki' are commonly used. |
| tayt (fren; kombi) | close (friends) |
| sabi yus (moni, tin,etc.) | to be economical; careful |
| dray | pale; thin; dry; lost weight; skinny |
| tori | to converse; to talk; to discuss |
| rich taym fo mari | to be ripe for marriage |
| boro (or 'tros') | to borrow, to lend (notice that Pidgin does not make any distinction between to 'borrow' or 'to lend.' The same word is used for both. Only the context brings out the difference. |
| bay | This usage of "bay" in the tale demonstrates the customary belief that a woman could be bought just like any other household object; this is why one would often hear people say: 'A wan bay wuman' to mean I'm taking a wife. |
| bak | to return;to pay back; to repay; to give back |
| onda | under |
| waka | journey |
| masa | husband |
| loŋ loŋ | very far; very long |
| kotlas | machete, cutlass |
| domot | front of the house; doorstep; threshold |
| wit veks | angrily |
| tori (palava) don baje | This is an expression to mean: Things are very serious; things have turned bad. |
| opsayd daun | upside-down |
| grayn (mash) | to grind |
| mash | to grind; to pound |
| pepe ston | flat stone used for grinding pepper |
| fawe | far away; far off |
| troŋ troŋ | In this context it means 'bitterly' |
| sef sef | oneself |

| | |
|---|---|
| bit | beat |
| Mi na yu go wye wan fut trosis | This is commonly heard when two parties have a dispute and one party is determined to have it out with the other. It means the determined party has made up his mind to give the other party no breathing space. |
| sayn day | This is used to show extreme determination. It can mean I'm prepared to die. I've made up my mind to see the end of this situation. |
| ha (or way) yu de mek so? | Why are you behaving this way? |
| chop moni | Literally, it means 'eat money'. It really means to embezzle to use fraulently. To a lesser extent it can mean 'to use money extravagantly ; to spend. |
| tray | to dare, to attempt, to try |
| potopoto | mud |
| I pas + Noun/pronoun | Not to know how..... |
| I pas mi ha a go du. | I do not know what to do. |
| I pas wi ha wi go tel dem. | We do not know how to tell them. |
| Na di tin mek..... | That's why..... |

4) QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

A.

1. Ha totis an shwayn dem bin bi fes fes taym?
2. Wetin bin hapin wan de fo di hol kontri?
3. Way shwayn bin get chop an moni pas totis?
4. Wetin mek totis go fo shwayn i haus wan de?
5. Foseka wetin totis dray plenti?
6. Way shwayn de soso fat?
7. Wetin totis wan se mek shwayn du fo i?
8. Foseka wetin totis wan boro fifti tausin fran?
9. Way shwayn no dinay fo boro totis moni?
10. Wich taym totis tok se i go bak di moni?
11. Wetin totis du wit dis moni?
12. Afta wich taym shwayn go aks i moni fo totis?

13. Wetin hapin di fes taym we shwayn go aks i moni fo totis?
14. Wetin hapin di sekon taym?
15. Wetin hapin di nomba tri taym?
16. Way shwayn no bin no se di pepe ston bin bi na totis i sef?
17. Way shwayn de stil dig potopoto sote tude?

B. Compare tortoise and pig (size, family status, cunning, etc).

C. Retell the story as if you were tortoise.

D. Retell the story as if you were pig.

5 A) GRAMMAR: When Tense Markers Are Not Needed...

1. As has been seen throughout this course, Pidgin has a series of "markers" which determine the "tense" or time of a verb.

| | |
|---|---|
| de | present |
| bin | simple past |
| don | unspecified past |
| go | future |
| etc... | |

You have also seen situation where these markers are dropped -- i.e. no marker is necessary to express the time.

a) Imperative (Lesson 8)

| | |
|---|---|
| Tanap! | Stop! (or) stand up! |
| Wuna chop! | Eat! |
| Mek i enta. | Let him come in. |

b) with 'wen' and 'den' (Lesson 6)

Wen wok finish, a de go haus. When work is done, I go home.

I de wosh i mot, den i wosh i skin. He brushes his teeth, then takes a bath.

c) With certain verbs: fit, sabi, wan, beg, etc.

These need no tense marker in the present (though in other tenses they do).

Below are several additional situations where Pidgin speakers habitually drop tense markers.

2. Narratives

Notice in the first paragraph of this lesson's folktale Totis an Shwayn, the narrator is fairly faithful to tense marker usage:

"Totis an Shwayn bin bi tayt fren fes fes taym. Ol tin bin de waka fayn...Totis an i famili no bin get somtin fo chop... Shwayn bin get plenti chop....

Soon after, indeed, after the first short dialogue, the narrator begins to neglect his tense markers:

"So totis i chop, i chop sote i bele wan bos....."

After the second short dialogue, he seems to forget tense markers entirely:

"So Shwayn boro totis fifti tausin fraŋ. Bet totis no yus dis moni fo bay wuman fo i fes pikin. Insted, totis tek di moni bay chop an nimbo, i an famili dem chop an dem drink".

This dropping of tense markers once the time of a story has been established is very common in Pidgin. It is especially true in tales and stories, but may be equally true when a friend is simply recounting a sequence of events that happened this morning or yesterday. Once the time of the actions is fixed, why bother to pinpoint it in each new sentence? One action obviously follows the other. In cases like this, Pidgin speakers will only include the markers if they feel it necessary to clarify or emphasize a time or show that a change in time has taken place. Note, however, that when they quote a conversation in their story, they are faithful in their usage of tense markers in the dialogue for the conversation is normal every day speech.

3. Expressions with "mek..."

You have already seen in Lesson 8 that in the Imperative (with or without "mek..."), no tense marker is needed. This holds true for several other standard expressions using "mek...":

| | |
|---|---|
| a) Na di tin mek... | "This/that is why..." |
| Na di tin mek a kam kwik-kwik. | That is why I came in a hurry. |
| Na di tin mek ol pipol sofa fo kontri. | This is why all people in the land were (are) suffering. |
| b) ...wan se mek... | "...would like...", "...want..." |
| A wan se mek yu tros (boro) mi moni. | I would like you to lend me some money. |
| Peter wan se mek yu wekop i fo nayn. | Peter wants you to wake him up at nine. |
| Hu wan se mek a helep i? | Who wants me to help him? |
| c) ...layk se mek... | "... would like...", "...want..." |
| A layk se mek wuna tok soso tru. | I would like you to tell the truth always. |
| A layk se mek ren fol evri de. | I would like it to rain every day. |

B) GRAMMAR: Prepositions

Pidgin has a multi-functional preposition, fo, which is equivalent, depending on the context, to the English to, on, from, in, at, and many other prepositions.

Examples:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. A de go fo maket. | I'm going to the market. |
| 2. Ma buk de fo tebul. | My book is on the table. |
| 3. Robert komot fo Detroit. | Robert is from Detroit. |
| 4. Lucy i mama de fo haus. | Lucy's mother is in the house. |
| 5. Som man de fo do. | There's someone at the door. |

Other prepositions in Pidgin include:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Snek de (fo) ontop haus. | There's a snake on top of the roof. |
| 2. Pipol dem de (fo) insayd choch plenti. | There are many people inside the church. |
| 3. Tif man bin hayd (fo) onda bed. | A thief hid himself under the bed. |
| 4. I haus de fo kona rod. | His house is near (beside) the road. |
| 5. David tanap fo bifo i haus. | David is standing in front of his house. |
| 6. A de ste fo bak Peter i haus. | I live behind Peter's house. |
| 7. Muyuka de fo midul Kumba an Limbe. | Muyuka is between Kumba and Limbe. |
| 8. Kamerun de afta Nayjeria. | Cameroon is next to Nigeria. |

Note that these prepositions are often combined with fo.

5. Some Additional Useful Expressions:

The following are some common Pidgin expressions which do require tense markers with the verbs that follow in the second part of the sentence.

| | |
|---|---|
| A de glad se... | I'm happy that... |
| A de veks se... | I'm angry that... |
| A de fye se... | I'm afraid that... |
| I bi se... | It's that... |
| Di tin bi se... | The thing is... |
| A de sori se... | I'm sorry that... |

| | |
|---|---|
| A de wonda se... | I 'm surprised that... |
| I fit bi se... | It may be that... |
| A hop se... | I hope that... |

Examples:

| | |
|---|---|
| Di tin bi se a no bin get moni fo kam. | The thing was I had no money to come. |
| A de fye se ren go spol rot. | I'm afraid the rain will ruin the road. |
| A de sori se yu no bin si i. | I'm sorry you didn't see her. |

EXERCISE I:

Make a list of ten things you would like the teacher (or a friend) to do for you or say to you. Use the expressions: A wan se... ; A layk se...

Examples:

- A wan se mek ticha tel mi i nem.
- A wan se mek i tich wi paynapul.

EXERCISEII:

Translate the following sentences into Pidgin:

1. He's angry that you have eaten all the food.
2. I'm surprised that you do not know my name.
3. I'm afraid that you will not come.
4. It may be that they have lost their way.
5. What is in front of this house?
6. Susan is standing behind Gary.
7. That girl is between two boys.
8. All my clothes are in the suitcase.
9. The truck is near the school.
10. We are in the classroom.

7. ASSIGNMENT

For the next class, prepare a story which you will tell in class without reading your notes. It can be either a folktale or a sequence of events which happened to you. Try to include both narrative and dialogue in your story.

## LESSON 15

### WAY TROKI I BAK BROK HAF HAF

Wan de som big big dina bin bi fo skay. Dem bin invayt ol bif an bed fo dat dina. Sins fo rich fo skay man get fo flay, na onli bed-dem bin fit go. Bet troki no bin wan mis dis pati. So i go mitop bed-dem tel dem se mek eni bed boro i wan feda mek i tu flay fo go fo di dina. Bed-dem gri. Eni bed gif troki wan feda. Wen taym fo go rich, troki tok fo bed-dem se: "Mek eni man gif i sef nem foseka wen wi rich fo skay eni man go introdyus i sef"; Bed-dem gri. Eniman gif i sef nem. Som bed kol i sef se 'Poli Poli' ; anoda wan kol i sef se 'Naytingel' ; anoda wan se i nem na 'Igul' ; troki gif i nem se 'Wuna Ol'.

Wen dem rich fo skay, dem bin welkom dem fayn. Ol man get chye fo shidon. Smol taym som savis brin mimbo i tok se: "Dis mimbo na fo wuna ol. Mek wuna ol drin".Den troki tok fo bed-dem: "Wuna don hye se dis mimbo na fo mi. I min se dem go brin oda mimbo fowuna." So troki drin ol di mimbo. Bed-dem wet dem on mimbo sote dem trot dray pas mak, bet oda mimbo no kam.

Taym fo chop don rich. Anoda savis brin big big pan chop. I tok se:"Dis chop na fo wuna ol ; mek wuna ol chop am." Troki aks di savis mek i tok egen mek ol man hye. Di savis tok di sem tin. Troki tok fo bed-dem se: 'Dem se dis chop na fo mi wan. Ol man hye as savis tok. Dem go brin oda chop." So troki butu fo di chop. I chop sote i lik pan. Bed-dem wet sote, bet chop no kam fo dem. Den dem no se troki don ful dem. Veks an hongri pas dem fo skin. I jos pas dem wetin dem go du troki. Di onli tin dem du bin se eni bed tek di wan feda we i bin boro troki. Ol man tek i feda stat flay fo kam bak fo graun. Troki bigin check hau i go manej kam bak fo graun we i no get feda fo flay. Taym we di las bed wan flay go, troki tok fo i se: "Bo Poli Poli, a beg yu plenti, tel ma wuman se a wan jomp rich daun. Tel am se mek i put ol sof tin fo autsayd so wen a jomp, a no go hye hot. If i don put am mek i layt faya. Wen a si di smok a go jomp.

Poli Poli gri. Wen i rich fo graun i go mit troki i wuman. I tok fo i se: "Ya masa se i wan tray somtin. I se mek yu tek ol brokin botul an ston put am fo autsayd. Wen yu don put am, mek yu layt faya so i go si smok, no se yu don finish."

So troki i wuman put ol haf haf botul-dem an ston fo autsayd den i layt faya. Wen troki si smok i no se i wuman don finish put sof tin-dem fo autsayd. So troki jomp i fol fo brokin botul an ston. Ol i bak chakara. Na onli day bin lef i. Bet i wuman kari i fo som tron medsin man. Di medsin man manej sote i joyn troki i bak bet no bin fit bi layk fes fes taym.

Na di tin mek troki i bak de haf haf.

## 2. VOCABULARY

| | |
|---|---|
| dina | feast |
| skay | sky |
| invayt | invite |
| bif | animal |
| bed | bird |
| mis | miss |
| pati | party; feast |
| mitop | to meet (has the idea of going towards someone) |
| eni | every; any |
| feda | feather |
| gri | to accept, to agree |
| eni man (eni bed) | each person (each bird) |
| Ol man | everybody |
| introdyus | to introduce oneself |
| Poli Poli | parrot |
| Naytingel | nightingale |
| Igul | eagle |
| 'Wuna Ol' | 'All of you'; 'You all' |
| savis | servant |
| I min se | It means that |
| wet | to wait |
| trot | throat |
| trot dray | thirsty |
| pan | plate, dish; bowl; etc. |
| tok egen | to repeat; to say again |
| butu | to stoop; to bend down. Here it means: to get down to something. |
| lik | to lick |
| jos | just |
| hongri pas mi fo skin | I'm very very hungry ("Hunger is too much for my body") |
| veks pas mi fo skin | I'm very angry ("Anger is too much for my body") |

| | |
|---|---|
| graun | ground; earth |
| chek | to think |
| manej | manage |
| las | last |
| jomp | jump |
| sof | soft |
| hye hot | to be in pain; to feel pain |
| hye kol; hye hongri; hye hit | to feel cold; to feel hungry; to fell warm |
| layt | to light |
| faya | fire |
| smok | smoke |
| tray somtin | to try something, to make an experiment |
| brokin | broken |
| haf haf | pieces |
| chakara | to break into pieces |
| Na onli day bin lef i | Only death awaited him. It was only left for him to die. |
| troŋ troŋ | very powerful |
| medsin man | doctor |
| joyn | to put together, to add |

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. Wetin bin bi fo skay wan de?
2. Hu dem bin invayt am fo de?
3. Ha man fit rich fo skay?
4. Way onli bed dem fit rich fo skay?
5. Wetin troki bin du so dat mek i tu rich fo skay?
6. Wich nem troki bin gif i sef?
7. Wetin di savis we i bin brin mimbo bin tok?
8. Wetin troki bin tok fo bed-dem?
9. Wetin di savis we i bin brin chop bin tok?
10. Wetin troki bin tok fo bed-dem?
11. Wetin troki bin du wit di chop?

12. Foseka wetin hongri an veks bin pas bed-dem fo skin?
13. Wetin bed-dem bin du troki?
14. Wetin troki bin tok fo Poli Poli?
15. Way yu tin-se i bin tok so?
16. Wetin Poli Poli bin tok fo troki i wuman?
17. Way yu tin se i bin tok so?
18. Wetin bin hapin taym we troki jomp?
19. Ha troki manej get bak we i de haf haf.
20. Wich kayn sens troki bin yus fo ful bed-dem?

4. A. GRAMMAR: Conjunctions

The common conjunctions in Pidgin include:

Bet = "but"

| | |
|---|---|
| I no get moni, bet i gud hat. | He has no money but he is a good (generous) person. |

So = "in order that...", "so that..."

| | |
|---|---|
| Tel am se mek i put ol sof tin fo autsayd, so, wen a jomp a no go hye hot. | Tell her to put soft things out so that when I jump I won't be hurt. |

(Note that it is very common to start a sentence with "so" in Pidgin; this indicates a logical sequence to what has preceded).

Mek = "in order that..." "so that..."

| | |
|---|---|
| I de chop mek i fat. | He eats in order to gain weight. |

Foseka se; bikos ="because"

| | |
|---|---|
| A kam let foseka se a wekop let. | I came late because I woke up late. |
| I de veks bikos i no get kolhat. | He is angry because he has no sweetheart. |

Taym we = "when"

| | |
|---|---|
| Arata de ple taym we pusi no de. | The rat (mouse) plays when the cat is away. |

Sote = "until"

| | |
|---|---|
| Peter wok sote i taya. | Peter worked until he was tired. |
| A don wet sote... | I waited until...! (i.e. too much!) |

If;Ifi = "if"

| | |
|---|---|
| A go kam if a get moni. | I will come if I have money. |

o = "or"

| | |
|---|---|
| A no no weda John o Lucy go kam. | I don't know whether John or Lucy will come. |

an (sometimes, in older Pidgin: na) = "and"

| | |
|---|---|
| Lucas an David dem bi tayt kombi. | Lucas and David are close friends. |
| Tude mi na yu go wye wan fut trosis. | Today you and I will settle this. |

(Note that Pidgin does not often use an to connect verbs or clauses):

| | |
|---|---|
| A go kam tek am. | I will come and take it. |
| Totis i chop, i chop, sote i bele wan bos. | Tortoise ate and ate until he nearly burst. |

B. GRAMMAR: Coumpound Tenses

1. Future Continuous (...go de...)

Just as in English, this tense is used to indicate an action that will be going on when another future action takes place.

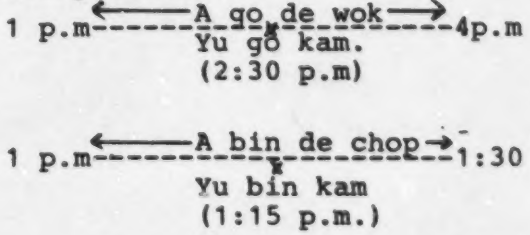
| | |
|---|---|
| A go de wok taym we yu go kam. | I will be working when you arrive. |
| Wi go de ple futbol taym we wuna go bi fo klas. | We'll be playing football when you are in class. |

2. Past Continuous (...bin de...)

Again, as in English, this tense indicates an action going on in the past when another takes place.

| | |
|---|---|
| A bin de chop taym we yu kam. | I was eating when you arrived. |
| I bin de slip taym we tif man enta. | He was sleeping when the thief came in. |

3. Note that the above two tenses, Future Continuous (...go de...) and Past Continuous (...bin de...) tend to indicate a longer action which is happening before, during and perhaps even after another takes place.



4. Past Continuous (...bin de...) can also be used to express things one "used to do" over a long period.

| | |
|---|---|
| John bin dē klaym stik taym we i bin bi smol pikin. | John used to climb trees when he was a child. |

5. Past Perfect (...bin don...)

The ...bin don...form is used to express an action that already took place before another past action.

| | |
|---|---|
| A bin don chop taym we yu kam. | I had (already) eaten when you arrived |
| Lucas bin don go taym we di haus bin bon. | Lucas had (already) left when the house caught fire. |
| Fish bin don finish fo maket taym we i bin wan bay am. | All the fish in the market had been sold when he wanted to buy some. |

6. Future Perfect (...go don...)

As would be expected, the.... go don....form expresses a future action which is expected to take place/finish before another one.

| | |
|---|---|
| Taym we yu go rich haus a go don go mi. | When you arrive at the house I will have already left. |

4.C. MORE ADVERBS

egen = again, more, some more, any more.

| | |
|---|---|
| A no fit slip egen. | I can't sleep any more. |
| I no go kam egen. | He will not come back again. |

Atol = a strong agreement with a negative statement

| | |
|---|---|
| Yu no de chop snek? | You don't eat snake? |
| Atol | Never/Not at all. |

or a strong disagreement with a positive question:

Yu de lay? = Do you tell lies?

Atol = Never/Not at all

Wantaym = immediately, right away

| | |
|---|---|
| Mek wi go wantaym. | Let's go immediately. |
| Dem don mitop wantaym. | They met right away. |

Daso ; Dasol = only

| | |
|---|---|
| A don bay daso faul. | I bought only chicken. |
| A wan fo luk daso. | I only want to look. |

Tu = too much; too

I tu dye. It's too expensive

Tutu = too much

I de tutu wok. He works too much.

Soso = always; all the time.

Dem de soso drink mimbo. They are always drinking beer.

5. ASSIGNMENT - I

Translate the folkale of the beginning of this lesson into English.

6. ASSIGNMENT - II

You have seen two stories in Pidgin which explain the origin of some behaviour or characteristic of certain animals (Tortoise and Pig).

Make up stories in Pidgin to present to the class explaining:

a) Why the lizard constantly does push-ups.

b) Why the porcupine has quills.

c) Why the snake has no legs.

d) Why the giraffe has a long neck.

e) Why the chicken does not fly.

## QUICK PIDGIN GRAMMAR REFERENCE

### I Subject Pronouns

| Singular | Plural |
|---|---|
| a = I | wi = we |
| yu = you | wuna= you |
| i = he, she, it | de, dem = they |

### II Possessive Pronouns

| Singular | Plural |
|---|---|
| ma = my | wi = our |
| ya = your | wuna = your |
| i = his, her, its | dem = their |

### III Object Pronouns

| Singular | Plural |
|---|---|
| mi = me | wi = us |
| yu = you | wuna = your |
| i = him, her (persons, animals) | dem = them (persons, animals) |
| am = it (things, places) | am; dem = them (things, places) |

### IV Relative or Connecting Pronouns

We (followed at some point in the sentence by the appropriate accompanying pronoun: i,am,etc.)

( who
( whose
( whom
( which
( that
( for which
( of which
( etc

### V Verb tenses and their markers

Present Continuous - A de kam

Habitual - A de kam ( evride )

Future — A go kam

Imperative (I) — Kam!

Wuna kam!

Imperative (II) — -Mek wuna kam

Unspecified Past — -A dọn kam

(negative : A nọba kam)

Specified or Simple Past -A bin kam

Simple Conditional — -If a get mọni, a go kam

Hypothetical Conditional-If a bin get mọni, a fọ kam

Complex tenses

Future Continuous — - A go de kam

Past Continuous — - A bin de kam

Future Perfect — - A go dọn kam

Past Perfect — - A bin dọn kam

Hypothetical Conditional- If a bin dọn get mọni, a fọ dọn kam

## PAYMAPUL

Assignement: Below is a list of common Pidgin proverbs. Find out what they mean.....

1. Trobul no de rin bel.
2. Mbonga bin tel njanga se wi go mitop fo pot sup.
3. Wan han no de tay bondru.
4. Dayman no de fye berigron.
5. Arata no de mek nyanga fo pusi i do mot.
6. Sofli sofli kach monki.
7. Man no day, man no rotin.
8. Eni wata de kwench faya.
9. Wata go lif ston.
10. Tok fo mot no bi kago fo hed.
11. De no bi wan
12. Hu bon dog?
13. Tiko drink, Kumba dronk.
14. Wen yu wosh han, yu chop witi chif.
15. Man we i aks, no fit frobay.
16. Man we i get mot, no fit mis rot.
17. Adaman tin no put ay.
18. A gi asha kari Kenja.
19. Moni no bi sansan.
20. Du mi a du yu, god no go veks.
21. Monki wok, babun chop.
22. Ay no de shut bif.

23. Gron bif no de foget i ol haus.

24. Koni man day, koni man beri am.

25. Man faul no fit hala fo ala man i ton.

26. Gron bif no fit dig hol fo wata.

27. Man we i ben i biabia, na i go hye simel.

28. Hye fo hye, tok fo de, no had fo mek wahala.

29. Kontri sitik sabi ton kontri fufu.

30. Tori bin fayn, tifman laf fo banda.

31. Pikin fo haus pas kwobo fo kwa.

32. Yu fit kot ya fut trowe am if pikin shit fo de?

33. Man no de kari wata fo basket.

34. Hori hori brok trosa.

35. Wakaman no de tori.

36. Trenja no de kuk kanda.

37. Gut fren pas bad broda.

38. Ayon sabi kot ayon.

39. De de go, kwacha de troŋ.

40. Jam pas day, monki chop pepe, kol em se njakatu.

41. Sup i swit, na ma moni mek am.

42. Rod fo go Legos i izi, bet fo kam bak na waya.

43. Bele no get Sonde.

44. Dayman noba hongri.

45. Wen han de rob fut, fut tu de rob han.

46. Sens no bi daso fo wan man.

47. Smol no bi sik-o.

48. Du gud ton bad.

49. Moto no fit waka fo kwata rot.

50. No wok we i big pas man.

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